

Bellie and Speymouth
Parish Church of Scotland
 December 2015

KIRK NEWS

Greetings from your Locum



When I was asked to write a short article for the church magazine I thought that you might, perhaps, like to know a wee bit about me. Hence the following 'potted' history. As a comedian once said, 'I was born at a very early age', in 1948 in fact, the eldest of a family of three. That was in Edinburgh where I grew up and attended school, as did my younger brother and sister. After leaving school I started work as an apprentice with what was then GPO Telephones, but is now B.T. During these years I also developed a love of

motorbikes which has never really left me although I know that I am safer on four wheels nowadays. It was at a Cafe frequented by motorcyclists that I met my future wife Jan who was a nurse at the nearby Eastern General Hospital. We married in her home town of Biggar in Lanarkshire in 1970 and have been blessed with two lovely daughters, two grand-daughters and a grandson.

Around 1980 I felt a call to the ministry and, after attending night-school to gain the necessary entrance qualifications, in 1982 I began studying for a Bachelor of Divinity at New College in Edinburgh. Which was quite a change for all the family as evidenced by our younger daughter who asked her mum, 'Mummy, when Daddy goes to university will they let him come home again?'

New College was a new experience for me as well and in my first lecture in Systematic Theology I remember thinking, 'I understand every word that man is saying but I haven't a clue what he is talking about!' Thankfully things became clearer and New College was a fantastic experience. As was training as a student for the ministry in which I began to discover some of the basics of being a parish minister. Which I became when I was ordained to Dulnain Bridge and Grantown on Spey in 1988 where I was privileged to be minister for over 25 years.

However, I mentioned my date of birth at the start and when my 65th birthday fell on a Sunday I decided to retire and make my birthday my last service. It was sad taking leave of so many friends and the folks we had known for so many years and Jan and I were both moved and humbled when so many folks came to the service and lunch afterwards. So we retired to Elgin where I discovered that retirement in the ministry certainly doesn't mean stopping work and I have been



invited to conduct worship in many of the churches in the Presbytery and now I am privileged to be your Locum. Jan and I have had a wonderful welcome from the congregation and I hope that in the months to come we can get to know one another better and discover the blessings of God's Word together.

God bless,

Morris



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Messy Church	2
Take Note.....	4
Bellie and Speymouth Guild....	5
Forrest Gump story	6
Church opportunities	7
Christian Aid.....	7
Eco news	8
Young Church	10
Bellie Babes	10
Bonfire	10
Kids corner	11
Church and Society.....	12
A few thoughts.....	12
Funerals	13
Getting to know you	13
Worship Team.....	14
Coffee and Chat	15
Brew and Blether	15
Elder retirels.....	15
Rev Alison's Farewell Social....	16
Dates for your diary.....	18
Advertisements and Events.....	18



BY ISABEL MACLEOD PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY

Messy Church
took place in Bellie
Church Hall from
2pm—4pm on 26th
September and
was well attended

with the children learning about 'Friends of Jesus'
through crafts, activities, stories, music and song.



MESSY CHURCH 2015 CONTINUED

The most recent Messy Church was held on Saturday 21 November in Bellie from 4-6 pm. We had a lovely afternoon worshipping on the theme "Getting ready for the Miracle of Christmas". The stories were about the Angel telling Mary of her new baby who was to be called Jesus and of the Wise Men setting out on a journey which would lead them to see this new King.



Related crafts and activities including games, snowflakes, songs, truffles, marching and crowns provided the main part of the afternoon and all who attended were able to join in a Soup and Sandwich tea before they left. Please pray for this outreach to our local community that many would see



that worship and spending time with Jesus does not always mean a formal service but can be about sharing the Good News with friends in an active and meaningful way which is suitable for all ages from the very youngest to the very oldest.

The next Messy Church meeting will take place on Saturday 30th January 2016 in Bellie from 4-6 pm.

Why not come along and join in?





Take Note really enjoyed the visit by Out of the Box Puppets from Inverness. Chris and Carol brought along a selection of their puppets and members of Take Note helped act out the bible stories of The Good Samaritan and David and Goliath. It was a great evening and we look forward to having them back again sometime in the future.



Maisie and Ailsa (two former members of Take Note, now at Scouts) asked if they could hold a Bake Sale in aid of Children in Need. They had a stall in the hall during Take Note on the Friday evening of Children in Need Day and raised a total of £194 for this worthy cause. Take Note also donated their subs to Children in Need and the children enjoyed Pudsey bear biscuits and cakes for their snack.



We are now busy practising our Christmas songs ready for our December outings. Listed below are the dates for your diary. The children are very enthusiastic and we have nearly 40 children coming along on a Friday night! Due to the large numbers, we have enlisted a rota of parent helpers and we thank them for giving up their time.

Our Christmas Concert this year has the theme of “Christmas around the World” Please come along and support the children and get into the Christmas spirit. Entrance is free, but we will be asking for donations for Dr.Grays Children’s Ward. The money will go towards providing new toys and games for children while they are in hospital.



Best wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Friday 4 th Dec at 6.30 p.m.	Take Note singing on Bellie Church Steps for the switching on of Fochabers Christmas Lights
Sunday 6 th Dec at 6 pm.	Take Note singing at Milnescroft Carol Service
Friday 18 th Dec at 7 p.m.	Take Note Christmas Concert in Bellie Church “Christmas around the World”

BELLIE & SPEYMOOUTH GUILD MARGARET KING, GUILD CONVENER

Walking Dougal, my Westie, helps me wind down....and winds me up in both senses of the term. After our Guild Coffee Morning on 14th November (nearly £450 raised for Guild Projects. Thank you!!) and the 'double' Guild-led service on 15th November, I was walking round the Lake at Gordon Castle winding down quite nicely and getting some thoughts for this article, which was a good 'winding up'. But then Dougal disappeared 3 times and I got wound up in the bad sense!



I had been thinking of our theme of peace,...and I realised how hard it is to keep peace in our own hearts. It's the little irritations when we're tired that get to us, isn't it?

Over recent weeks we have been using the beautiful Hebrew word 'Shalom'. I read somewhere that it is a state of 'universal flourishing, wholeness and wellbeing', when things are AS THEY OUGHT TO BE. When we are at peace with our environment, with one another and within ourselves, because we are at one with our Heavenly Father through Jesus, - things would be as God wants them to be, would be AS THEY OUGHT TO BE.

*Glory to God in the highest and on earth **shalom** among those he has favoured* Luke 2:14

We said farewell to Rev Alison at our dedication/communion service on 13th October. She was a great support as Minister and member and we wish her well at Nairn Old. We have learned something of the new projects and had an inspiring talk from Liz Tait on her life in the Red Cross.

Our **Open Meeting** is on **24th November** when members of the Deaf Church and their translators, backed by Bellie Praise Group, will lead us in a **Signed Songs of Praise** to which all are welcome. Then it's 'turkey time' with Christmas meals being arranged at the Quaich and the Garmouth Hotel. Our 2016 programme is below.

12 Jan	2pm	'Coffee and Chat'	Speymouth
	7.30pm	Bible Study—Rev David Whyte, Bellie	
26 Jan	7.30pm	Wilderness Trek—Dianne McLeish, Bellie	
9th Feb	2pm	Team Romania	Speymouth
	7.30pm	Amnesty International—Ruth Jeffries, Bellie	
23rd Feb	7.30pm	Amazon Experience—Colin Sharp, Bellie	
8th March	2pm	Photography—Judith McIntyre	Speymouth
	7.30pm	Peace by Mountain and River—Donald Urquhart & Co.	Bellie
22nd Mar	7.30pm	Annual General Meeting	Bellie



On behalf of the Bellie and Speymouth Guild may I wish you all a
God-Blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with Shalom!

FORREST GUMP DIES AND GOES TO HEAVEN SUBMITTED BY GRACE HENDRY

The day finally arrived when Forrest Gump dies and goes to heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates, met by St. Peter himself. However, the gates are closed, and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter said, "Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you though that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven."

Forrest responds, "It sure is good to be here, St. Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was."

St. Peter continued, "Yes, I know Forrest, but the test is only three questions.

1. What two days of the week begin with the letter T?
2. How many seconds are there in a year?
3. What is God's first name?

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter who waves him up and says, "Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answer."

Forrest replied, "Well, the first one—which two days in the week begin with the letter 'T'? Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow."

The Saint's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, "Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?" asked St. Peter.

"How many seconds in a year? Now that one is harder," replied Forrest, "but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve."

Astounded, St. Peter said, "Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?"

Forrest replied, "shucks, there's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd..."

"Hold it, interrupts St. Peter. "I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind....But I will have to give you credit for that one too. Let us go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?"

"Sure," Forrest replied, "it's Andy."

"Andy?" exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated St. Peter. "Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?"

"Shucks, that was the easiest one of all," Forrest replied, "I learnt it from the song,

ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN".

St. Peter opened the Pearly Gates, and said "Run, Forrest, run."



BELLIE AND SPEYMOUTH CHURCH OPPORTUNITES

CHURCH ORGANIST/PIANIST OPPORTUNITY

Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church of Scotland are continuing to accept applications for the opportunity of organist/pianist on a full time or a rotational basis. Application in writing with 2 named referees should be made to Mrs E Rennie c/o 11 The Square Fochabers IV32 7DG.

WE NEED YOU



DATA PROTECTION OFFICER OPPORTUNITY

The Kirk Session of Bellie and Speymouth Church of Scotland are keen to identify a member of the congregation who is interested in taking on the role of Data Protection Officer. Enquiries can be made to John McConnachie, Session Clerk, in the first instance.

CHRISTIAN AID COORDINATOR OPPORTUNITY

A suitable member of the congregation is also required to succeed Helen Mills as Christian Aid Co-ordinator. If you are interested in this opportunity please advise John McConnachie, Session Clerk or speak to Helen Mills for more information.

CHRISTIAN AID HELEN MILLS, CHRISTIAN AID COORDINATOR

At this time of conflict in the Middle East, and at a time when many migrants from Africa are making a perilous journey across the sea to Europe, the demands on Christian Aid are enormous. Christian Aid is still supporting its work with projects that provide practical help to some of the poorest people in the world. It has, and still is, making a significant difference in lifting many poor people out of poverty. In recent years it has also mounted a major humanitarian effort to aid refugees from the Middle East who have been driven from their homes by war or religious extremism.

This is why your support for Christian Aid, at this time, is so important. The Harvest Collection for Bellie and Speymouth Congregations raised the magnificent sum of £622.97. This is in addition to the sum of £2,443.68 which was raised during Christian Aid Week and £650.78 at Speyfest. The people of Fochabers and district have been most generous in their continuing support.

In my final year as Christian Aid Coordinator I would like to thank all those who made door to door collections for Christian Aid Week, those elders who distributed the harvest envelopes, and those helpers that assisted in the counting of donations. I also want to thank all those who made the effort to gift aid their donations. The recovered tax will add significantly to the total sum received by Christian Aid.

Finally I would like to offer my best wishes to the new Christian Aid Coordinator, whoever he, or she, may be.



Rag Bags

Thank you to everyone for collecting towards Rag Bags.

Our latest collection raised £179.60 which will be going towards the tower fund.



Moray Eco Network

The Moray Eco Network meets three times in the year and the meeting in September was by Grant Wilson from Moray Waste services. To motivate us to recycle more Grant shared the following information:

- The Moray Council area has one of the highest recycling rates at 56% of all waste collected
- The area generates 30-32,000 tonnes of waste to landfill a year – 10 years ago this was 60,000 tonnes
- Analysis of average contents of landfill bin by weight shows that there is still much work to do. A total of 51% of what goes to landfill could be recycled ie:
 - 36% food waste (a significant amount of this is unopened and in date!)
 - 9% paper and card
 - 4% plastics (type 1&2, which can be recycled) and cans
 - 2% glass bottles and jars
- Plastics: only types 1 and 2 can consistently be recycled. The market for other types of plastic is volatile and demand varies for Type 5 (yoghurt pots, marg tubs etc) so Moray Council has decided not to collect for recycling at present.
- Contents of the brown bin is recycled by Keenan Recycling, who operate the UK's biggest "in-vessel" digester
- Plastics are sent to Waste Watchers in Lossiemouth for sorting, baling and reprocessing
- Enough waste gas is generated from landfill in the area to supply a town the size of Fochabers
- Bin lorry crews empty between 1100 – 1300 bins a day (approx 26 tonnes in weight)!
- Putting the wrong materials in the wrong bins costs Council Tax payers £1.2 million a year (£3,000 a day). This includes £82 / tonne in Landfill Tax.
- Moray Council non-recyclable waste actually goes to a "landraise" site, which is an old airfield at Nether Dallachy near Spey Bay. It was first used for landfill in 1993 and it is the only Council operated site currently in use in Moray. At the current rate of disposal it could be at capacity by 2025.
- The Council aims to have a recycling rate of 95% by 2025.

Climate Justice

This December political leaders from around the world will meet in Paris for the 21st climate conference to conclude negotiations for a new global deal to tackle climate change and address its impact. Scottish Christians have an important part to play in telling our leaders that we care about the climate and God's creation. Not only do we have a duty to our brother and sisters around the world who are suffering the impacts, but we are stewards of God's creation and must look after it. By signing the petition we have shown that Bellie and Speymouth support Climate Justice.

The Traidcraft Table

You will have noticed at Bellie we have had the Traidcraft table out every Sunday in the run up to Christmas. Although we won't be ordering in December we have crafts and some of the display cards that can be purchased. So do your last minute shopping with us. We have been getting the Traidcraft table out and about more recently and in the New Year we would like to continue with this. So if you are involved in any groups out with the Church and would like us to come along with the Traidcraft goods just speak to any of the Eco Team. Our other plan is to have more catalogues available so browsing and ordering can be easier. We will also do Party plan evenings if you want to have a group of friends round.

ECO NEWS CONTINUED

Meat Free Monday's (or any day you prefer)

For this edition I have asked Sue Pianta-Scott to write a short bit and give us a recipe to try.

Christmas Dinner

It's that time of year again! Both wonderful and daunting when it comes to 'vegetarian, guests to feed.

I am Pescatarian, that is, I eat fish but no meat from animal, bird or fowl. A Vegetarian eats no meat at all.

A Vegan eats nothing from animal, so no dairy products, no meat and no honey.

So here are a couple of recipes that can be prepared in advance and will please all three!

First up is: Imam Bayildi (a Turkish dish said to make a prince swoon!)

This is my version and can be served with roast vegetables (cooked in oil of course, not animal fat).

Ingredients: 2 large aubergines 1 large onion sliced and cut into small pieces
2 cloves garlic 1 tin chopped tomatoes
1 tsp garam masala 1/2 tsp ground ginger
1/4 tsp chopped chillies (or more if you like) 1/2 cup olive oil

Method: Half the aubergines lengthways and scoop out the flesh leaving about a 1/4 inch thickness of shell.

Pop the shells in an oven tray coated with olive oil in the oven 200c for about ten minutes. While aubergines in oven, gently cook the onion, add the flesh of the aubergine (cut into small pieces), add crushed garlic, garam masala, ginger and chillies. Cook until onions and aubergine soft and all mixed in and then add tomatoes.

Season to taste. Put the aubergine shells into an ovenproof dish and scoop the mixture into them.

Pop the dish into the oven 200c for about 20 minutes until all bubbling on top and a wee bit brown. This will keep for a couple of days in the fridge and the flavours improve I think. Just reheat on Christmas Day.

Luxury Nut Roast

This may sound unimaginative, but believe me you can make it very special and our vegetarian family member just loves it and her meat eating partner always has some too!

Ingredients: 8 oz (25gram) Mixed nuts using cashew, walnuts, pecan, brazil
1 medium onion, chopped finely 4 oz (100g) Wholemeal bread
1/2 pint (300ml) Vegetable stock 1 tsp Vecon or yeast extract
1/2 tsp mixed herbs 1 oz (25 g) butter
1/2 tsp paprika tomato puree

Method: Saute the onions in the butter until transparent. Grind the nuts and bread in food mixer or liquidizer until fine. Add all the ingredients together, mix well. Turn into greased loaf tin (1lb or 450g) and bake at 180c for 30 minutes. I line my tin with greaseproof paper or use a silicon one which never sticks. Pop a sprig of holly on to decorate and there we are. Enjoy. Happy Christmas Sue Pianta-Scott

The Eco Christmas Card

Look out for the Eco Christmas Card in Bellie and Speymouth this December. It is a slightly different format this year as it is one card each Church that you can sign and put in your Christmas wishes to your friends and the congregation. This in turn reduces the amount of cards and you can donate a sum in the box which will go to the charity that is selected for the Christmas Eve service.

YOUNG CHURCH WENDY CROSBY



The Young Church are delighted to announce that, this year, £288.70 has been collected in the Green Bucket which is based in Speymouth Church. This is an amazing amount raised from loose change and the children would like to thank everyone who has donated. The money has now been sent off to WaterAid where it will be put to good use.

We are now looking forward to taking part in the Family Service on Sunday 20th December. This will be an extra special day for us as our Christmas Celebration Party will be held in the hall straight after the service and hopefully, we will have a visit from a very special person!!

BELLIE BABES ANNETTE MEIGHAN

The Autumn session has proved just as busy for us as we have been delighted to welcome more families to our numbers and rejoice with some of our regular Mum's who have given birth again, so lots of new babies to cuddle.

The 'friends of Bellie Babes' which we introduced in September has proved to be a huge success, both with the Mum's and children, and with the 'friends' themselves. The Mums are frequently commenting that we couldn't do without them now, and the 'friends' are now proudly wearing our purple tabards making them instantly recognisable. A real answer to prayer. We had a successful fundraising evening in early November with a Bodyshop party and raised a magnificent sum enabling us to be able to do our yearly donation to the Church and gave the Mum's a great night together too.

We are looking forward to our Christmas Party on the 12th December which looks like it will be our busiest yet with 34 children and babies booked to come bringing over 50 adults with them. They are going to have lots of fun doing nativity crafts, hearing the nativity story before food and party games and a surprise visitor!

Happy Christmas from all of us at Bellie Babes

TGIS AND YOUNG CHURCH BONFIRE ISABEL MACLEOD



A fantastic bonfire took place on Sunday 22nd November at 6 pm for TGIS and the Young Church with the invitation being extended to anyone else who wished to come along. Thank you to Colin Murray who agreed to allow us to have the fire at Spey Bay near the Golf Club and, for making the fire which was huge! Thank you to the ladies who made hot dogs, pancakes and hot chocolate for everyone. It was great to have some scripture, thoughts and prayers shared round the fire.

Thanks to all who came along!



KIDS CORNER

Kids Bible Wordsearch

Fit the words in the list into the diagram below reading forward, backward, up, down, diagonally, always in a straight line.

Acts Chapter 1:1-2

ABRAHAM
ALEXANDER
ANANIAS
ANDREW
ANNAS
BARSABAS
CAIAPHAS
DAVID
ISAAC
JACOB
JAMES
JESUS



BARTHOLOMEW
BARNABAS

People in the
book of Acts
Puzzle #4



JOHN
JOSEPH
JOSES
MARY
MATTHEW
MATTHIAS
PHILIP
PILATE
SAMUEL
SAPPHIRA
THEOPHILUS
THOMAS

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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What does He say about how to treat your enemies?

Add the numbers from the intersecting row and column to find the letters to fill in the blanks.

	1	2	3	4	5
1	O	P	A	E	S
2	P	A	E	S	L
3	A	E	S	L	R
4	E	S	L	R	T
5	S	L	R	T	U
6	L	R	T	U	N



"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you:

L O v y _ _ _
7 2 5 2 10 8

_ _ _ m i _ _ _ d
5 11 5 5 6 4 11

_ _ _ y f _ _
3 8 4 2 8

_ h _ _ _ w h _
9 2 6 5 2

_ _ _ _ _ c _ _ _ _ _ y _ _ _
3 5 8 6 5 10 9 5 2 10



N	A	L	W	O	A	K	Y	U	W	T
S	<p>Here's a super fun Bible word game!</p> <p>We've hidden a verse from Proverbs in this shape.</p> <p>To find it, you'll need to start at the correct letter and then read every second letter, going in a clockwise direction.</p> <p>How long will it take you to uncover the wisdom of this proverb?</p>									R
U										M
N										A
O										I
R										T
B										P
U										H
C										O
T										A
U										F
R										G
Y										O
E										E
T										L
W										N
E										I
S	I	N	D	A	S	E	R	L	E	T

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL JOHN MCCONNACHIE

The Church of Scotland agreed at the General Assembly of 2009 to ‘promote a more equitable and sustainable use of energy’. The Church and Society Council were tasked with putting these words into action and has been working on several projects including ECO Congregations – we’re one - which encourages local churches and congregations to reduce their carbon footprint. However, something BIG is about to happen

At the beginning of December thousands of delegates will meet in Paris for the **UN Climate Change Conference** to try and hammer out a global deal on climate change. The Church of Scotland is encouraging churches and individuals to get involved. Here are some suggestions:-

Reflect

Read the articles on the [Church of Scotland website](#) showcasing the work being undertaken by different areas of the church as part of its commitment to tackle climate change.

Sign the ACT NOW Climate Change Petition

Rev Sally Foster Fulton, Church and Society Convener, will be in Paris representing Scotland as Climate Justice Ambassador for ACT NOW, (ACT- Action by Churches Together), urging political leaders to bring climate justice for all. Help ensure this happens by signing the ACT NOW petition, either online at <http://actclimate.org/> or by printing off the petition and handing it round your place of work, friends and family. Please help us send a strong and clear message to Paris!

Follow the Climate Baton

Churches across Scotland are calling for a deal in Paris and have shared in the journey of the [Climate Baton](#), which we will be taking to Paris. The baton carries the message “Time for Climate Justice: Churches in Scotland Demand a Deal in Paris, December 2015”.

Pray

Take time to pray that the world leaders attending the Conference will seek to achieve justice for all in the world and not simply focus on protecting the economic welfare of a few.

A FEW THOUGHTS SUBMITTED BY GRACE HENDRY

“A smile is a curve that sets everything straight”

“A clean house is the sign of a broken computer”

FUNERALS

Mrs Elizabeth Stevenson, 18 Murrayfield , Fochabers, 10th September 2015

Mr John Chalmers, Weston House , Keith, 10th October 2015

Mr Gordon Grant (Gogs), 10 Findlay Place, Mosstodloch, 9th October 2015

GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!

JEAN SCOTT

I have been at Bellie.....since 1970 having moved from Inch when Donald was made redundant from the railway.

I came to Bellie because.....I had two children attending Sunday School. It was at the same time as the Church but held in the Pringle Hall. A bus took the children there and back.

One thing I enjoy about Bellie is....the friendship in the congregation. No one feels isolated as there is always someone who will speak to you.

I find a lot of joy in....attending the Praise Group, singing the hymns in church, walking with the Playgroup at Mosstodloch School, teaching the children to knit at Mosstodloch School. I also enjoy coffee mornings with friends.

If I won the lottery I would....give most of it to Cancer Research and any charities connected to this cause.

If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be to....Mull and Iona. I have been several times, when you step off the boat onto Iona there is a calmness and serenity I didn't find in any other place I visited.

If I was stranded on a deserted island, my luxury item would be....knitting needles and the biggest bag of wool I could get.

The title of a book about me would be...."Always in a Hurry".

If I was to create A piece of art, the subject would be ... something to do with my garden, although I wasn't good at art!

BETTY FYVIE

I have been at Bellie since.....moving to Fochabers in 2001.

I came to Bellie because...I relocated from Inverurie to live closer to my family.

One thing I enjoy about Bellie is...the variety of Sunday Services—good preachers, good music and lots of youngsters in the Young Church. I have been well looked after by the Pastoral Care team too.

I find a lot of joy in.....watching my two grandchildren doing well in their studies.

If I won the lottery I would.....have a right good spend! I would certainly support local projects such as the Church Tower and Institute Hall.

If I was stranded on a desert island, and could have one luxury item with me it would be... my television. I would hate to be without it!

If I could travel to anywhere in the world it would be back to Dubai in October. The sunshine and warm temperatures certainly agreed with me and were very therapeutic.

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be...Bennachie. I carry a photograph of the hill with me wherever I go.

If I could go back in time, I would travel to...1992 because my late husband and I went on our first holiday abroad to America. Highlights of the trip included a visit to Boston, Niagara Falls and also Amish Country. I have many happy memories of that trip.



WORSHIP TEAM LIZ RENNIE

Christmas Carols



Christmas Carols

Over the last few months, Worship Team Members have been looking to refresh the Christmas Carol Booklet used at the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services both in Bellie and Speymouth. Thanks go to Marjorie Park, Heather Nicholson and Anne Murray who have refreshed the hymn choices and designed the front cover and inserts for the publication. We hope to complete this project in time for using at this year's services. We hope it will encourage you to sing heartily during the Season of Christmas.

Organist

We are blessed with many talented musicians in both of our congregations, many of whom contribute to Worship in so many ways. We are currently seeking to recruit to the Team of Organists. Following Miss Cadenhead's retiral as Organist at Speymouth during the Summer, we are looking for an Organist for Speymouth. In Bellie, Chris Campbell is taking a step back from his role on the Organists' Rota to devote more time to developing the work of the Praise Band. Without doubt we will miss his rousing playing of the organ and thank him most sincerely for his service over the years. We will look forward to his continuing work with Praise Band. Marjorie Park and Joyce Dawson will continue as Organists but would appreciate if others might be recruited to the rota for Bellie. We are also very keen to appoint an organist to Speymouth. If you know of anyone out there - organist or keyboard player please let me know. You will see the advertisement in this edition of Kirk News.

Milnescroft Worship

The youngsters of Take Note will share their Christmas Message at the final Service of Worship at Milnescroft on 6 December 2015 at 6.00pm. The pattern of Worship for Milnescroft for 2016 has been agreed. There will be four communion services and two normal worship services in February, April, June, September, November and December. Dates for these will be agreed in due course. We look forward to welcoming not only residents of Milnescroft but also any members of our congregations who prefer the shorter, all seated service.

Bellie Babes Christmas Celebration

Worship Team members will be helping to share the Christmas Message to all of the babies and toddlers at the Bellie Babes Christmas Party on Saturday 12 December. This sounds like a fun filled morning for all concerned and a great opportunity to share the true message of Christmas for us all.

Worship Team look forward to working with our Locum Minister, Rev Morris Smith, Interim Moderator, Rev John Morrison and members of both of our congregations during this period of Vacancy. If you have any thoughts or ideas for Worship, please share them with a member of our team.

COFFEE AND CHAT

JENNIE CAMERON

I am pleased to say that Coffee and Chat continues very successfully meeting in the Bellie Church Hall.



We are grateful for great support from a team of workers and regular attenders who come to Coffee and Chat every Monday morning and to those who pop in now and then to enjoy our company. The regular participation of the childminders with their lively children provide diverting entertainment for those attending. We are happy that we have now passed another milestone in that we have made £10,000 since working for the 'Tower Fund' began in March 2012. As at 9th November 2015, the total raised is now £10,498.



Coffee and Chat intend to have their Christmas themed day on Monday 14th December, after which we will be closed until Monday 11th January 2016.



The team wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year.

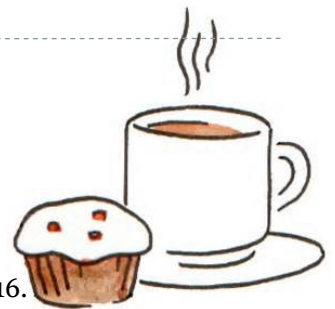
BREW AND BLETHER GRACE HENDRY

Brew and Bletcher next meets on the 4th December when we will enjoy a "Cloutie Dumpling".

We would be delighted to see all at 2pm till 3.30pm in the Speymouth Church Hall on that date.

Please note there will be NO meeting in January but we look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year on 5th February.

The Brew and Bletcher team wish everyone a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2016.



ELDER RETIRALS SANDRA STEEL

Helen Campbell and Jean Leithhead became Elders 15 years ago. They were 2 of 3 to become the 1st female Elders at Speymouth. They retired on 11th October.



It was lovely that Rev Alison was able to present them with certificates in recognition of their long service and dedication to their elder duties in our church.

REV ALISON'S FAREWELL SOCIAL ANN BOWIE PHOTOS: ANNE MURRAY

On Friday 16th October Bellie Church Hall was filled to capacity for the Farewell Social to Rev Alison, John, Kiera and Liam for a sumptuous buffet, provided by Fellowship Team, members and friends of the congregation who had gathered to bid farewell to the Manse family. Ann Bowie welcomed all saying although we were sad that Rev Alison was leaving, having been called to Nairn Old Parish Church, this was to be a happy occasion to mark 12 years of a wonderful ministry, in which Alison had encouraged and inspired us in so many ways, not forgetting John who had been a great strength and support to her becoming actively involved in the life of the Church and community, as had Kiera and Liam. Rev Morris Smith said Grace and the proceedings commenced—food, fun and fellowship! Entertainment throughout the evening was provided by Erica and Briony Stewart, these talented sisters delighted the company with their music on fiddle and keyboard. Grace Hendry's country dancers performed 2 dances, one which had been composed by Livy Stewart to celebrate the 50 year linkage of Bellie and Speymouth, the second dance was Alison's Reel. James Alexander and a group of former Fochabers Fiddlers rounded off the evening, encouraging folk to take the floor for Gay Gordon, Dashing White Sergeant etc, etc. One of the highlights of the evening was 1 year old Brodie Lambourne adding his voice to his mum's as she sang Orange Blossom Special along with Fiddlers. Rev John Morrison brought the evening to a fitting close wishing Rev Alison God's Blessing in her new charge. What was, although tinged with sadness, another happy get together for the folk of Bellie and Speymouth who will have many fond memories of the Manse family, especially Rev Alison who served us faithfully and brought about many changes during her 12 years as our minister.

She goes with our love as she ministers to her new congregation in Nairn.



Dear Friends

Greetings from Nairn Old Manse

When I last wrote to you back in September, I was speaking of change. At that time it was already known that I had accepted an invitation to preach as Sole Nominee at Nairn Old Parish Church but had yet to do so and had yet to hear the result of the Ballot and hear if the Presbytery of Inverness would sustain such a call. On 13th September I preached and



was elected by a unanimous vote, which was then sustained by the Presbytery. I was released from the Presbytery of Moray and inducted to the charge of Nairn Old on Oct 30 2015, a day short of 12 years since I had arrived at Bellie linked with Speymouth (now united).

Once the decision was made, the

time to my day of departure seemed to pass so quickly – there seemed too little time to say a personal farewell to everyone, other than through the opportunity offered at the wonderful Farewell Social on my final Friday and the final act of worship as your Parish Minster on Sunday 25th October. So I take this opportunity to say my farewell and a huge thank you to you all.

It has been an absolute privilege and pleasure to serve as your minister for the last 12 years. I leave with my heart and mind full of the most wonderful memories of faith, hope and love; of babies being born and becoming part of our church family; the elderly moving on to eternal life as well as every stage in between. I was given the privilege of being present with those who were struggling and hurting; of meeting and working among people in real need, such as in Romania; of hearing so many profess their faith and of course so many of the Kirk Session accept their own calling to serve as ordained elders. There were so many other diverse ministries, special events and building projects, too numerous to name.

I will cherish every memory, but above all I will value the incredible people of this congregation and the personal relationships and friendships I have enjoyed. There are so many warm,

generous, faithful and caring people among you. You have been a joy and inspiration, and have enriched my life and my ministry beyond any words I could write. Thank you for looking beyond my imperfections and seeing instead that I was simply an instrument of God, trying my best.

12 years is a long time and it has been wonderful, but really it has passed so quickly, marked by the growing up of our children who arrived to attend primary school and who are now both in their twenties. Thank you too for all the kindnesses shown to them as well as to John. However, the time has come for change and I at last felt the strong call of God to a new ministry in Nairn Old Parish Church. While the decision to leave was not an easy one, I certainly



leave with peace of mind that the charge of Bellie and Speymouth is in good spirits and vibrant and an attractive option for any new minister to consider. May I add a sincere thank you to all of you for the most generous cheque presented on my final day – once we get ourselves organised at this end we hope to buy a piece of furniture. I add to this a thank you for all the many cards and gifts, flowers and tokens of friendship (including chocolate!) which were given or sent to us by so many of you. Each and every one of them is a treasure to us and marks the many deep friendships that existed among us. Special thanks also to the amazing number of you who were able to travel to Nairn and offer such great support and encouragement to me at the start of my time in Nairn. In bidding farewell I know I leave you in the good and faithful hands of your Interim Moderator, Rev John Morrison and Locum Minister, Rev Morris Smith. I pray you will offer them both, as you did to me, your love and support and remain faithful to the ministry they offer to you in this time of change and as you look forward to calling the next Parish Minster of Bellie and Speymouth Parish Church. Finally for any who might look fondly on my time there with you, I ask that you do not bring to mind ‘me’ with any praise, but simply a memory of hearing the gospel faithfully preached and the building of God’s Kingdom in the beautiful parish of Bellie and Speymouth. Wishing everyone a happy and holy Christmas and may hope, peace, joy and love be yours this Christmas and the coming year.



Your former minister,

Alison

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 20 December 2015	10.00am	Bellie Church	United family Worship
Thursday 24 December 2015	6.00pm	Garmouth Public Hall	Christmas Eve Carols
	7.30pm	Bellie Church	Christmas Eve Carols
	11.00pm	Speymouth Church	Watchnight Service
Friday 25 December 2015	11.00am	Bellie Church	Family Service
Sunday 27 December 2015	11.30am	Speymouth Church	United Worship
Sunday 3 January 2016	11.30am	Speymouth Church	United Worship
Sunday 10 January 2016	10.00am	Bellie Church	United Worship—Souper Sunday

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Bellie and Speymouth Christmas Sale and Coffee Morning

In Bellie Church Hall
On Sat 28 Nov 2015
10am – 12noon

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2016 Calendar
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with fun, food and fellowship for the whole family.

Saturday 30th January 2016
in
Bellie Church Hall
from
4pm – 6pm

CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, STORIES, MUSIC & SONG

Followed by a family meal
EVERYONE WELCOME!