



December 2016

Greetings from your Locum

As I write this the news is that Donald Trump is the President Elect of the United States of America. Whatever one's political views this election has been one that has shocked, not only the political establishment in the United States, but political leaders and people all around the world. Commentators are quoted as saying that it has been the most bruising, vicious, slanderous election campaign ever with both candidates attacking the other's personality, morality and fitness for office.

What many commentators are also saying is that many American's have voted for Trump because they are angry about the perceived, or real, gap between the lives of ordinary men and women in America and the agenda of the 'wealthy political elite'; A gap that Trump has seemed to bridge with his slogan 'Make America Great Again', with the promise to bring manufacturing jobs back to America, to curb immigration, and with his ability to take on the political establishment and change the political landscape.

Nor are these concerns or this anger confined to the United States there have been similar protests in Europe and elsewhere in the world as well. For many Brexit too was a protest vote about a political establishment, in both London and Brussels, that seems to have lost touch with ordinary men and women. Interestingly in her first speech as Prime Minister Theresa May seemed to recognise this when she stressed that her government would make Britain work for everyone and not just the few. There also seems to be an undercurrent of anger in other European countries with a swing to the political right in many countries, fuelled by austerity and by the concerns over the millions of migrants and refugees seeking refuge in Europe. While as a background to this there are the many open conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere in the world that threaten the peace and security of the whole planet.

Instead of technology and globalisation bringing our world closer together and making people more cooperative and more peaceful the whole world seems to be getting angrier and more on edge. Against this background, and with the rhetoric of Donald Trump's election campaign fresh in my mind, I am sure I am not alone in worrying about what the result will mean for the future of the United States and the future of the world.

It is at a time like this that the world needs the message of the birth of the Christ Child more than ever. St. Luke's Gospel tells us that the message of the angels to the shepherds at Jesus' birth was, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace and goodwill to all people.' A message of God's love for all of his creation and for his human children. A message of peace and hope for the whole world lived out in the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. 'Peace on earth



and goodwill to all people', a message that is much more important than all the Christmas jingles and advertising and celebrations. Thanks be to God and, in these troubled times, let us pray that peace may become a reality in our own hearts and in the hearts and minds of all the peoples of the world. A Blessed and Peaceful Christmas and New Year to You All,

Morris and Jan

KIRK NEWS



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NEWS FROM THE GUILD

BY MARGARET KING

2016/ 17 Theme - *GO IN JOY*

LOOKING BACKWARD

We have been coming and 'going in joy', getting off to an uplifting start as we went on virtual rambles and climbs and looked over wonderful scenery from places most of us will not reach, courtesy of Donald Urquhart's slides of the outings of Elgin High Church Walking Group. Along with Anne Rae's readings and accompanied by Anna McClure on the piano, it was a most gentle and enjoyable evening

[Sorry - Not one of their photos.

A Wispa to the first one who tells me where it is ! ☺]

The Dedication Service is always special and it was no different this year as we shared together at Speymouth with Rev Morris conducting the Communion. Then it was an interesting talk about Quarriers' whose Christian mission roots have not been entirely lost as they seek to serve the needy in our society, in particular Caring for the Carers in Moray. At Speymouth, a couple o' wifies fae Buckie North Guild shared some readings and poems in the Doric, leaving some bemused faces. But most folk got the hilarious story o' a mannie that went to hear Handel's Messiah for the first time, not knowing the first thing about opera!

Guild Week has just finished and we were greatly blessed by Mosstodloch School 'Concert Party' and the Revellers at 'our event' and some of us enjoyed other musical evenings at Elgin St Giles' and Buckie South & West.

LOOKING OUTWARD – The miracle of the money which comes in to support the 6 **Guild projects** over 3 years continues apace. **Over £250,000** has been raised in the first year for –

Overseas: a multi-purpose building in Haiti, solar ovens in Bolivia and the fight against fgm (female genital mutilation) in Kenya; and

At home: Training for Street Pastors; Care for the Family encouraging young parents; *Prospect* - developing resources for worship which includes those with learning difficulties.

LOOKING FORWARD

6 Dec **5pm for 5.15** Christmas Meal – GARMOUTH HOTEL

10 Jan 2017 2 pm Coffee & Chat

17 Jan 7.30 pm Discussion Topic

7 Feb 2 pm The Fishermen's Mission

14 Feb 7.30 pm The WDP Story



LOOKING UPWARD

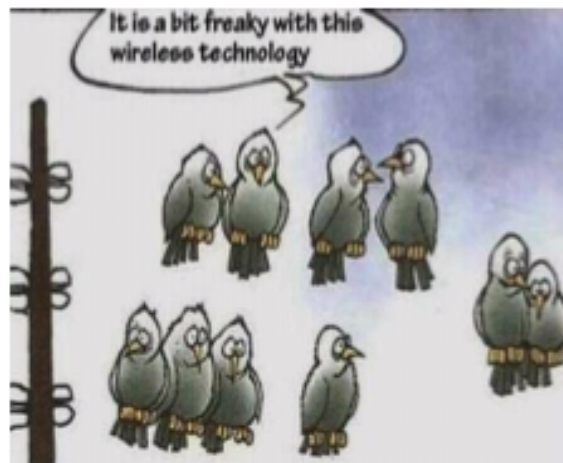
Have a joyful Christmas and every blessing in Christ for 2017!

From us all in the Guild

Margaret King

P.S.

Bird says, "It is a bit freaky with this wireless technology!"
Go in JOY – it's the way you tell them ☺ !



BELLIE BABES ANNETTE MEIGHAN

It has been an extremely busy time at Bellie Babes recently with an influx of new babies every week. It has been amazing to see how they all have fitted in well and seem to be enjoying the group with, apparently, more to come over the next few weeks! Talking to one mum on Friday, she says it is just a great group where she feels at home, and that is why she is bringing all her friends along. It isn't a 'normal' toddler group at all, they get so much care, attention, love and support for them as well as the children. It is so good that the Mum's feel the care and support, which is what we aim to provide.

Earthtime's 'UP' project came to visit us again at the beginning of November and Sarah organised another 'swishing' event (posh name for swopping!) during our regular session. I think several mum's went home delighted with their swops! We aim to repeat it again in the New Year as it is a popular event with the Mum's.



We had a fantastic fundraising evening with our Body Shop Party. Many thanks to Ann Duguid our local Body Shop rep, for being so generous with her time and her donations to Bellie Babes. We have raised with sales and the raffle over £350 which we are delighted about. Thanks to Claire Reid for helping Annette to organise the evening and the Raffle, and for all those who helped on the evening. We all loved the handbag game!

Our next big event is the Christmas Party on Saturday 17th December to be held in the Church and the hall. We are still getting replies back but have already reached 30 little ones and have lots more to hear from yet! We are planning lots of fun with a crafty session, nativity story and a visit from Father Christmas. It is all very exciting!

The Mum's will be going out for their meal out on Sat 21st January at Bijou by the Sea – a hot meal in peace is always welcome!

So we continue to offer our love and support to the families in Fochabers and beyond, sharing Christ's love and especially at this time of year remind them that, just like their little babies, Jesus was once a little baby too, born to parents who needed to love and protect him as he was growing up.

Happy Christmas from all of us at Bellie Babes.

TIME FOR A SMILE SUBMITTED BY HELEN CAMPBELL

A mother was worried about her young son walking to school. He didn't want her to walk with him. She wanted to give him some independence, but yet know that he was safe. She asked a neighbour if she would follow him to school, staying at a distance thinking that he would not notice her. The neighbour agreed as she was up early with her toddler anyway.

The next school day, the neighbour and her little girl followed Timmy as he walked to school with another little girl who lived nearby. She did this for a whole week.

As the two children walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, the little friend noticed the same lady following them, as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, "Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Timmy replied, "Yes, I know who she is." The little girl said, "Well, who is she?"

"That's just Shirley Goodnest", Timmy replied, "and her daughter Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who the heck is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Timmy explained, "every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, cos she worries about me so much. And in the psalm it says Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow all the days of my life, so I guess I will just have to get used to it!"



A WORD FROM YOUR INTERIM MODERATOR

REV JOHN MORRISON

I was reminded recently that it is now a year since we said our farewell to Alison Mehigan as minister to the congregation. My goodness how time flies. Shortly afterwards I was given the opportunity to be your interim moderator and Morris became your locum minister.

I would like to offer my thanks to Morris for the excellent job he is doing as locum providing a stable ministry to you all. I would also congratulate you for the way you have welcomed him and supported him in all he seeks to do, in God's service, in the parish of Bellie and Speymouth.

Undoubtedly after a year of vacancy you will be wondering what is happening as regards finding a new minister. Well your nominating committee has been working very hard since it was appointed in April and given that task on your behalf. They have been exploring a number of ways of seeking the new minister. Some the conventional routes you would expect and also some innovative ideas. Have no doubt, though you may not hear much about what is going on there is a lot being done to get the right person for Bellie and Speymouth.

I am sure at times you will be anxious because you seem to hear nothing from the committee and at other times you will hear rumours about people applying or not applying, being turned down or rejected etc. etc. I can assure you none of these



rumours will be true. How do I know? Because no one on the committee is allowed to disclose anything to do with who may or may not have been approached, who has contacted the committee or any other details of what it is doing. This is to protect any minister involved from any difficulty such speculation or disclosed information might bring them. And so I ask for you all to remain patient, to continue to pray for your nominating committee and to pray that in God's time he will bring to us the right person to lead you as a congregation. Thank you for your continuing prayerful support.

WORSHIP TEAM LIZ RENNIE

The Season of Advent started with a wonderful evening of singing and fellowship led by Bellie and Speymouth Praise Group, under the direction of Marjorie Park, on Sunday 27 November in Bellie Church. After the service of song, readings and carols, refreshments and mince pies were enjoyed in the Church Hall. A retiring collection for Shelter was uplifted. Thanks to everyone who helped to ensure the evening was a success.

On Sunday 4 December, the children of Take Note will lead the evening worship at Milnescroft. This is always popular and much enjoyed by the residents and all who take part. The next Milnescroft Service will take place on Sunday 5 February 2017. This will be a Communion Service with Rev Morris Smith sharing the short message and serving the Communion. District elders are reminded to invite those members who may prefer the shorter, seated service to come along to Milnescroft at 6.00pm.

On Saturday 17 December, Worship Team members will help at Bellie Babes Christmas Celebration by assisting with Crafts and also telling the Nativity Story for very young children. This format for sharing the real message of Christmas has worked well and it is always special to be part of this busy family occasion.

Our search for Organists continues we are still keen to recruit an organist for Speymouth Church and in the longer term to think about building the rota team for Bellie Services also. If anyone knows of someone who may be interested in playing the organ - please speak with a member of Worship Team.

Members of Worship Team wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



TAKE NOTE

DENISE AND NEIL BROWN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY



Our theme for this term has been harvest and you may have seen our harvest collage on our noticeboard. The children enjoyed the craft and took home a coloured leaf scratch art.



During September Take Note supported the Moray Food Bank and we would like to say a big thank you to those who donated to the box each week.

We had a visit from 'Out of the Box' puppets from Inverness and they led a very enthusiastic crowd. We enjoyed games, songs and a story told by puppets.

At the end of October we had a fun night with a few different games.

We have just started our Christmas preparations as we have a number of engagements to sing at during December.

Come along and support us if you are able to.



Our Take Note Christmas concert this year is called "Where's Christmas?", taking the form of a short play. Rehearsals are underway! We are going to collect toys at our play for the Northern Scot Toy Appeal. A box will be available at Take Note during December for the children to fill with toys if they want to, and we will be collecting toys on Friday 16th December at the play.



Happy Christmas from the Take Note Team.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday 3rd December 3.30 – 4.30 p.m. – Fochabers Christmas Lights switch on

Sunday 4th December – 6pm – Take Note singing at Milnescroft Carol Service.

Sunday 11th December – 3pm – Christingle at Gordon Chapel

Friday 16th December at 7pm Bellie Church – Take Note Play "Where's Christmas?"

Sunday 18th December – 6.30pm - Spey Bay Carol Service



COFFEE AND CHAT BY JENNIE CAMERON

Coffee and Chat has had a successful year and is grateful to all the loyal supporters who come along every Monday morning.

Huge thanks go to the gentlemen who help with putting away tables and chairs each week.

The Coffee and Chat Themed day is planned for **Monday 12th December**, we are then **closed until Monday 9th January 2017**.

We look forward to seeing everyone on that date .

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Good New Year.



AN ADVENT CALENDAR WITH A DIFFERENCE

ISABEL MACLEOD

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Each day add an item to the box and then donate to a food bank or a family in need.



This year we are hoping to run the Reverse Advent Calendar scheme where boxes are available for people to take home and for every day from the 1st to 24th December you put one item (suitable for the Moray Food Bank) into the box.

The filled boxes will be returned to either Bellie or Speymouth on Christmas Eve at the Carol services and the items will be delivered to the Moray Food Bank for distribution in The New Year.

It could be a great project for the whole family to show that Christmas is about giving and not just receiving.

Boxes will be available from Sunday 27th November and throughout December.

If that seems a lot, why not just donate one item a week or even just bring something along to the Carol service on Christmas Eve? As they say, every little helps!

FUNNY ANECDOTES SUBMITTED BY HELEN CAMPBELL

THE FAMILY BIBLE—A lady was posting an old family Bible to her brother in a different part of the country. “Is there anything breakable in here?” she was asked. “Only the Ten Commandments” answered the lady.

TWO KINDS OF PEOPLE— Somebody said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, “Good Morning, Lord,” and those who say “Good Lord, it’s morning.”

WHO IS THE FOOL? - A minister was opening his mail one morning. Taking a single sheet of paper from an envelope, he found written on it only one word: ‘Fool’. The following Sunday, in church, he announced to the congregation, ‘I have known many people who have written letters to me and forgotten to sign their names. But this week I received a letter from someone who signed his name and had forgotten to write a letter.’

RING THE BELL—A Minister was walking down the street one day when he notices Nathan, a very small boy, trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street.

However, Nathan is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach. After watching the boy’s efforts for some time, the minister moves closer to Nathan’s position.

He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little boy and, placing his hand kindly on the child’s shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring.

Crouching down to Nathan’s level, the minister smiles and asks, “And now what, my little man?” To which Nathan replies with a beaming grin, “Now we run!”

OTHERS— If it’s true that we’re here to help others, then what exactly are the others for?

Go to sleep with a prayer. Pray about everything, talk to God. Just let it out, all the good, all the bad. He’s always listening, prayer does change things. Even if you think God isn’t listening, let me tell you He always is. He’s always working on something for you. Breathe and ask for forgiveness and also forgive others. Remember, tomorrow is a new day. Start fresh & clean.

SUBMITTED BY LISA CAMPBELL

WHEN I SAY, “I AM A CHRISTIAN”

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not shouting, “I’ve been saved!”
I’m whispering, “I get lost!”
That’s why I chose this way”

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I don’t speak with human pride
I’m confessing that I stumble—
Needing God to be my guide

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not trying to be strong
I’m professing that I’m weak
And pray for strength to carry on

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not bragging of success
I’m admitting that I’ve failed
And cannot ever pay the debt

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I don’t think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be taught

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I’m not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes I’m worth it

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache,
Which is why I seek His name

When I say, “I am a Christian”
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority...
I only know I’m loved

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SUBMITTED BY HELEN CAMPBELL

SOME AMUSING ANECDOTES AT THIS TIME OF GOOD CHEER!

SUBMITTED BY GRACE HENDRY



A wife invited some people to dinner.

At the table, she turned to their six year old daughter and said "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say" the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mummy say", the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said, "Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

A father was at the beach with his children when the four year old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven" Dad replied.

The boy thought for a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

The light turned to amber, just in front of him. He did the right thing and stopped at the junction, even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The tailgating woman behind him was furious and honked her horn screaming in frustration, as she missed her chance to get through the lights. As she was in mid-rant, she heard a tap on the window and looked up into the face of a very serious police officer. The officer ordered her to exit her car with her hands up. He took her to the police station where she was searched and fingerprinted, photographed and placed in a holding cell.

After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. She was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with her personal effects. He said "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn, giving the guy in front of you the finger and cursing at him. I noticed the "What Would Jesus Do?" bumper sticker, the 'Choose Life' license plate folder, the "Follow Me to Sunday School" bumper sticker, and the chrome-plated Christian Fish emblem on the boot, so naturally I assumed you had stolen the car."



Subject: Catholic Heart Attack (written from America where they do not have the NHS)

A man suffered a serious heart attack while shopping in a store. The store clerks called 911 when they saw him collapse to the floor. The paramedics rushed the man to the nearest hospital where he had emergency open heart bypass surgery. He awoke from the surgery to find himself in the care of nuns at the Catholic Hospital he was taken to. A nun was seated next to his bed holding a clip board loaded with several forms, and a pen. She asked him how he was going to pay for his treatment. "Do you have health insurance?" she asked. He replied in a raspy voice, "No health insurance." The nun asked "Do you have money in the Bank?" "Do you have a relative who could help you with the payments?" asked the irritated nun. He said "I only have a spinster sister, and she is a nun." The nun became agitated and announced loudly "Nuns are not spinsters!" Nuns are married to GOD."

The patient replied, "Perfect, SEND THE BILL TO MY BROTHER IN LAW."

Stamps



Firstly the Eco team would like to thank you for collecting stamps throughout the year. As we are now approaching Christmas we would like your continued support and we have placed a stamp collecting box at the front of the church, as well as the one at the back of the hall. At Speymouth there is a bag hanging on a hook, you know where it is.

This year, 2016, the Stamp Appeal was to support the Church of South India's Othara Eco-Spirituality Centre. The following is an extract about the centre.

“ 'God created all living and non-living things to coexist in a rhythm and equilibrium, which we often call ecological balance. Ecological disasters befall us when this balance is lost', Bishop Thomas K. Oommen, Deputy Moderator of the Church of South India

The Church of South India (CSI) has recently opened the Othara Eco-spirituality centre near Thiruvalla in Kerala. It is a place where people can come to learn about climate change and the importance of conserving the earth God has given us.

This year the Stamp Project will support some of their ecological innovations including the harvesting and re-use of rain water, the establishment of a biogas plant to power the kitchens and the development of a small dairy and chicken farm for native breeds.

Through retreats and conferences, CSI hopes that the knowledge people gain at the centre will inspire them to live sustainably and encourage others in their community to do likewise. They want to encourage people to appreciate and understand that 'caring for the earth is not only a calling, but a lifestyle.' “

Rag Bags



*Good News * It has taken us a while but we have managed to get a clothing bank container for Bellie and Speymouth. It is situated up at the playing fields in Fochabers. It is ours, although it just says Rag Bags on it, but we still receive the money for the rag bags as usual. However it is not easy to use. So as a guide don't overfill your Rag Bags because you have to hold down the handle and then swing your bag up into the bin. It is designed in such a way because in other areas of Scotland goods were getting stolen from containers. We realise that it is not going to suit everyone especially if you are less able but in this case if you still can get your bags to both churches there will be someone that will be able to get it to the container for you. If anyone notices that the container is full please let Ann R. or Avril know as we can arrange a collection.

Eco Christmas Card

As we have done in previous years we have the Eco Christmas card situated at the front door of Bellie. The idea that rather than sending heaps of cards to friends within the Church you can sign “The Eco Card” and place a small donation in the box which will go to the charity that is chosen each year. Not only is this environmentally friendly it is supporting a charity.



Food Bank

We will still be collecting donations of food at the door and at the back of the hall at Bellie in the run up to Christmas. Thank you for your continued support.

Meat Free Monday (The recipe for this issue has been submitted by Helen Mills)

Sweet potato and coconut dal with coriander. Serves 4-6

550g sweet potatoes peeled and cut into 1cm cubes	175g split red lentils
1 green chilli descended and sliced	400ml can coconut milk
450ml water	1 tsp grated root ginger
1tsp ground cinnamon	0.5tsp turmeric
Salt no pepper	Chopped coriander to garnish



Put the sweet potatoes into a saucepan with lentils, coconut milk, chilli and water. Bring to the boil and cook gently uncovered for 15-20 minutes until the sweet potato and lentils are tender and the mixture looks thick

Stir in the ginger, turmeric, cinnamon and salt and pepper to taste. Cook gently for a few more minutes to blend the flavours. Sprinkle with coriander and serve with some lightly cooked cabbage and plain cooked rice or cauliflower rice.

This is delicious and tastes even better the next day. Note that the spices are added after the lentils are cooked as they can prevent the lentils from becoming tender.

Traidcraft

We have been trying this year to up the profile of the Traidcraft Sales table and we have been trying to get the Traidcraft goods out and about more. In



TRAIDCRAFT
Fighting poverty through trade

June we had it at a school fayre in Elgin and although we didn't do all that well. It was a good exercise to promote what Traidcraft was about as some people hadn't heard about it. We have been to Brew and Blether, Milne'scroft and we recently combined with "Crafting for a Better World" (a local group that makes fabric crafts and the proceeds go to various charities). It was a successful day and we would like to thank those of you who came along to support these two charities. We have now been invited to join "Crafting for a Better World" at their pop up shopping event running from the 9th November to the 5th December Tuesday to Saturday 2.pm – 5pm at The Garage, 7 High Street, Fochabers, entrance Institution Road.

We will still have Traidcraft goods available for sale at the Church although it would be worth a visit to the "Pop Up Shop". If there is any event that you think we could go to or if you wish to have a Traidcraft party please let us know.

Soap

The Eco Team have been looking into soap products recently as we were liking the Traidcraft soap products which we stock on the Traidcraft table. Further to this we have looked into the company "Lush". First of all we were impressed with their minimal packaging approach and if they do have to use bottles they have made provision to recycle what they can. So when you reach for your shower gel consider how many washes you are going to get from the bottle then compare it to how many washes you get from one of the Lush soaps, which are beautifully fragranced with natural oils. They have introduced a shampoo bar, probably not so good if you colour your hair, I've heard, but maybe worth a try since there is no plastic bottle to go to landfill. They also have shower roulades that are lovely and creamy to use. The products don't contain water and therefore don't need preservatives, they use Fair Trade, natural and organic ingredients and they are fragranced with essential oils. The staff are well trained to assist with the type of product you are looking for and there are stores at Inverness and at Aberdeen. However you can order online. There is further information in the form of a booklet at the Eco station at the back of Bellie hall. We hope this article will cause you to consider what products you use and consider a more environmentally friendly alternative.

FUNERALS

19th September Leslie Tombe, 'Ben View' The Quarters Fochabers

30th September Andrew Findlay, ex Trochelhill Memorial Service at Trochelhill

5th October Angela Rondeau, ex Fochabers Memorial Service Bellie

8th November Elizabeth (Elma) Young, Fochabers



GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!

AVRIL CLARK

I have been at Bellie....I couldn't put an exact date when I started coming to Bellie but I think it might have been around 1986.

I came to Bellie because.....we had been living in the village by this time and my Aunt, Billie McIntyre, had moved here too and she went to church regularly from the time she arrived and that sort of decided me to join her on a Sunday morning. I think it actually helped to come with someone as it can be a bit daunting to take the step into church when you haven't been for awhile. I had attended Sunday school down in Glasgow up till my early teens but when we moved house my family never joined another church.

One thing I enjoy about Bellie is...probably the fellowship. I have made lots of friends and everyone is caring and helpful.

I find a lot of joy in....being creative. I love doing lots of different art activities and crafts. The main one is patchwork and quilting of course. I have been involved with Speyside Quilters since 1988. I recently went to an International quilting event at Hampden Park where there was a group of quilters for America. I didn't know anyone or any of the organisers of the event but I had a lovely day sharing stories with like minded quilters.

If I won the lottery I would..... Buy a second hand Jaguar I have always fancied driving around in one. My husband questioned why wouldn't we buy a new one if I won the lottery but I just couldn't cope with getting it scratched in the first month. I might be better with a vintage one. After I got the car thing out my system I would help out my family and then decide on certain charities that I would like to support.



If I was stranded on a desert island and could have one luxury with me, it would be ... a sewing machine and a box of material. Okay that was two things.

If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be... to Japan, I'm fascinated with Japanese culture and their arts and crafts. Even in the simplest of things they take care to have some artistic input into it. Also they have a fabulous quilt show in Toyko.

The title of a book about me would be... "A Wall Flower by Choice" I'm not a person that likes to be up front doing things I prefer to be in the background working away.

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be... I found this tricky because I create art quite a lot but I am drawn to the beauty of nature so something that has flora and fauna.

If I could go back in time, I would travel to.... 1962 because our neighbour was a single lady that lived downstairs and I frequently went to play with her. She was a great companion and I missed her greatly when we moved but felt I never really told how much she meant to me.

Once upon a time....My husband and I had to go to pick up an award for the "Big Draw" event but we were a bit reluctant because it was a busy time of year and our children had to be looked after so it was a bit of a hassle. Anyway we went and it turned out one of these memorable days in several ways. We had to travel to Rothesay as the event was at Bute House. I had been to Rothesay once as a child so it was nice travelling over on the boat, then Bute house was beautiful. In particular there was a marble chapel that had a sky light with red stained glass and when the sun shown the chapel lit up in a rose colour, it was beautiful. Further to this there was an art installation that we were able to visit where the floor was completely mirrored so when you walked on the floor you had the illusion that you would fall because it was the ceiling that was the reflection. I loved the idea but strangely some people felt unsafe although it was an illusion. So it turned out a good day.

Harvest Thanksgiving

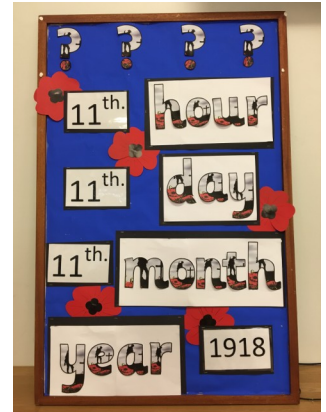
On Sunday 2nd. October, we celebrated the Harvest of Land and Sea when an abundance of local produce and a “big catch” of knitted fish were displayed! Our youngsters participated in an action poem “This is the Harvest that God made” which portrayed the growth of a small seed and the amount of people involved in the process of providing our food – yes, our daily bread! Rev Morris had plenty of volunteers for his next activity which challenged the children to re-arrange the individual letters of HARVEST into words such as STARVE and SHARE. This activity encouraged the children to remember those many people in the World who are less fortunate than ourselves and reminded us of how we can all play our part in helping others.

“On Safari”

After her trip as a research assistant in South Africa during the Summer, we welcomed back Katie (Horton) to Sunday Club to share her experiences, photos and slides with everyone. It was great to have an insight into her work at the Dinokeng Game Reserve and admire the wonderful slides of a variety of wild animals. The children thoroughly enjoyed their Safari adventure (no passports, money or luggage required!) and had great fun making a variety of animal masks.

Remembrance

Remembrance Sunday gave our youngsters the opportunity to consider the importance of Memories. Being involved in creating a visual aid indicating the end of the First World War gave an insight into the Past and an assurance that all those affected by War will be remembered – always! The children made poppies and added words to describe the after-effects of War. The poppies were displayed on a cross in Memory of all those families involved and affected by both World Wars and subsequent conflicts.

Advent with The Jesse Tree

Meantime, we are learning about a very old Christmas Tradition - making a Jesse Tree. The Jesse Tree is similar to a Family Tree and is used to tell the story of the Bible from Creation to the birth of Baby Jesus. Each week in Sunday Club we discuss a selection of stories from the Old Testament and illustrate these as Advent decorations to be hung on the Church Christmas tree. In addition to the Advent decorations, we are making a folder of the selected Bible stories, Scripture verses and the children’s prayers to share with everyone.

Christmas

As we prepare to contribute to the Family Service on Sunday 8th. December, we take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Congregation for their on-going support, prayers and encouragement to all our Sunday Club members and families.

Party

Last year, immediately after the Family Service, we had our Christmas Party which was GREAT fun! Our ladies from the “Wardrobe Department” did an A-MA-ZING job helping the youngsters change out of Nativity costumes into party attire whilst Craig had everyone in “party mood” in record time!

However, this year, we have decided to extend the Christmas Celebrations by having a belated “party” in January! We know that Santa will have had some respite by then and should he feel like a change of costume, he would be most welcome to party with us—on **Saturday 7th. January, 2017 in Bellie Church Hall at 2.00p.m. – 3.30p.m.**

A Christmas party on 7th. January 2017? Oh, no it isn’t! Oh, yes it is! It’s no Ordinary Party – it’s a Panto Party! Since many of the children may attend various Pantomimes over the Festive Season, our party will give everyone (adults also) a chance to dress up (optional) as their favourite Pantomime character. We have also invited some special Performers so please come and join us for an afternoon of FUN, GAMES, DANCING and FOOD!

TURNER SYNDROME CONFERENCE—MEXICO

CAROLINE MARQUIS



In April 2012 I was asked if I would be part of Turners Syndrome Support Society UK delegation to the International Conference in Mexico 2014. I was both honoured and humbled to be asked. The requirements were that we had to raise funds for the conference and Turners Syndrome and to self fund our travel, accommodation etc. So the planning and fundraising began I was overwhelmed with the support and raised a total of £1,073.61 so I thank you all once again for your generosity and support as this not only funded my attendance at the conference but is a huge boost the TSSS UK funds.

When I left here on 12th November to go to Mexico my feelings were a mixture of nerves and excitement. Never before had I experienced something on this multi-cultural scale. After the long journey Stephen one of the UK delegates collected me and the others I was travelling with from the Airport to take us to our 5 bedroom villa in Las Brias, in Cancun which was to be our home for the next 9 nights. It was located about a mile's walk from the hotel where the conference was being held along the same stretch of beach. Sharing the villa reduced our personal costs enormously as the hotel was to prove very expensive.

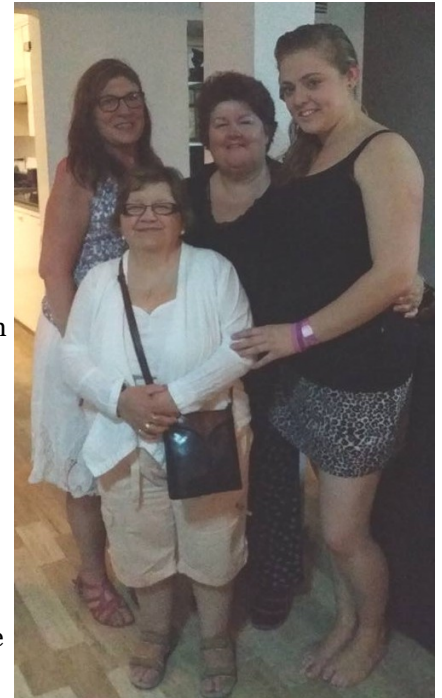
After recovering from the journey and acclimatising to the 24oc temperatures we had a couple of days to explore the area, do one of the excursions on offer then it was time for the Conference. All the delegates were given a very warm welcome by our Mexican hosts. There were delegations from fourteen countries in attendance. 160 people in all attended. Over the course of the conference we heard from 14 different international speakers most of whom were medical professionals. Their talks and presentations were predominantly to inform and to empower us to go back to our own countries and seek the best care we can. I along with a selection of other women also spoke of their experiences and gave their personal stories which we hoped would be shared back with their own Turners Support Networks back home to inspire and empower other women with TS.

There are 3,650,000,000 women in the world, of these 1 and a half million has Turners Syndrome. The medical speakers spoke of how they were striving to improve knowledge in their countries and how they cared for their TS girls and women. The different variations surprised me in some cases but the common factor was the lack of care for the women as they grew up and they left the paediatric system. They are working with the adult Doctors nationally and internationally to improve transitional care nationally. There has also been a Turners Syndrome Global Alliance set up with the primary aim of improving knowledge and treatments and care standards for TS worldwide.

It saddened me to think that the women in some of these other countries did not receive the care that I and others in the UK receive although I know it can be a bit of a post code lottery here in the UK. I was also surprised to learn that the UK has the best support network worldwide. We are way ahead of America and they actually piggy back off our society here in the UK. A lot of the medical care is about monitoring and prevention and this is something which we and all nations need to improve on.

At the time of writing I am still recovering from the long journey home so this is just a brief summary I am hoping to organise a talk to share my Mexican experience more in depth in the New Year and hope you can come along.

I will leave you with something our opening speaker said God took away a chromosome but he gave us something else. This certainly struck a chord with me.



Bellie - Welcome Rota

	08 January 2017	15 January 2017	22 January 2017	29 January 2017	05 February 2017	12 February 2017	19 February 2017	26 February 2017	05 March 2017	12 March 2017	19 March 2017	26 March 2017	02 April 2017	09 April 2017	16 April 2017	23 April 2017	30 April 2017	07 May 2017	14 May 2017	21 May 2017	28 May 2017	04 June 2017	11 June 2017	18 June 2017	25 June 2017	02 July 2017
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Team Leaders

M cConnachie John	Res																									
BROWN, Betty																										
Clark Avril																										
Raffan, Ann																										
Murray Anne																										
Borthwick, George																										
Jones, Joan																										
Alexander, James																										
Rennie, Liz																										
Bowie, Ann																										
Fettes, Catherine																										
MacLeod, Isabel																										
Brown, Denise																										
CAMPBELL, Chris																										
Park, Marjorie	Organ																									
McINNES, Margaret	Res																									
Lambourne, Clare																										
McEIGHAN, Annette	Res																									
TRAVERS, Brian	pt/CO																									

TEAMS

CROSBY, Wendy																										
McCONNACHIE, Sandra																										
MILLS, Helen																										
MILLS, John																										
CAMERON, Donald																										
CAMERON, Jenny																										
NICHOLSON, Heather																										
BRUCE, Sandra																										
HAROLD, Irene																										
CAMERON, Evan																										
HALIDAY, Carol																										
WILLS, Anne																										
RAMSEY, Jean																										
GILLESPIE, Isabel																										
GILLESPIE, Hugh																										
HORTON, Vivien																										
ADAM, Marjory																										
CLARK, Alison																										
DAWSON, Joyce																										
ECKERSLEY, Isabel																										
CANT, Lorraine																										
Milne, Kathleen																										
KING, Margaret																										
MALCOLM, Doreen																										
LAMBOURNE, Ruth																										
MARQUIS, Caroline																										
MEARNS, Ben																										
MEARNS, Vera																										
MURRAY, Jean																										
PATERSON, Alex																										
PATERSON, Alison																										
YOUNG, Irene																										
PERT, David																										
PICKSLEY, Rita																										
THOMSON, Margaret																										
WILLIAMSON, Louise																										
PIANTA-SCOTT, Sue																										
WILKINSON Lorraine																										
WILKINSON, Steven																										
WHYTE, Marjory																										

WELCOME TEAM MEMBERS—WHAT TO DO!

Regularly check the Rota to find out when you are required. Copies are posted on the Church Notice Board in the hall corridor and in the church vestibule. A copy can also be found on the church web-site at www.bellieandspeymouth.org.uk.

If for any reason you cannot attend on the days shown, please try to change the date(s) with someone else then advise the relevant Team Leader of the change. Don't just tell the Team Leader that you can't attend that day(s) and leave it for them to arrange a replacement.

On the relevant Sunday.

1. Arrive about 30 minutes before worship.
2. Confirm with Team Leader what you are doing, eg assisting with offering, taking the Team Leader's place at the front door when they go for the Bible etc.
3. Check you are wearing your name badge.
4. Reserve your seat near the doors.
5. Whichever side you are in, assist people with the doors, hand them a hymn book, a Bible if they wish and an Order of Service. When assisting people with the doors, please don't hold both doors open at the same time. This is to try to conserve the heating in the church and to have some control of our heating bills.
6. Once everyone is in the Sanctuary, take your seat.
7. After the benediction wait until the Bible is uplifted then open all the doors to allow congregation to leave. Use the door hooks.
8. Collect the hymn books from the congregation and place them in the racks in the vestibule.
9. When everyone has left the Sanctuary, check round for any hymn books, Bibles or Orders of Service left lying.
10. Assist Team Leader with any clearing up to be done before leaving.

Please remember, the Welcome Team members are the first faces people will see when they enter the church. We must make people feel we are pleased to see them and that they are welcome to join with us in worship. Thus the role of the Welcome Team is hugely important in the life of our church and in our worship.

This is not 'door duty' but an honour to welcome people to one of God's houses.



BREW AND BLETHER GRACE HENDRY

We have had a very good year and numbers have been increasing, so lovely to share fellowship with others.

We will continue to meet on the first Friday of each month but NOT IN JANUARY 2017 but will be back in February 2017 as usual.

May the team at Speymouth wish everyone a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year in 2017.



THE CHRISTMAS STORY, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS!

BY REV. JIM MACEWAN

SUBMITTED BY REV MORRIS SMITH

Isaiah promised that The PEOPLE who walked in darkness would see a great light. The HERALD (either Badenoch & Strathspey or Glasgow) does not always have good news, but the herald angels did: they had NEWS OF THE WORLD—peace on earth, because God loved the world so much that he gave his son.

The RECORD is provided in Matthew and Luke: as usual details differ, but the birth of Jesus is certain. At least one of the Magi was The OBSERVER who spotted The STAR, almost as bright as The SUN.

The TELEGRAPH carried a court circular announcing that king Herod had hosted a reception for three distinguished visitors from the East: none, apparently, was a SCOTSMAN.

These wise men, having no COURIER, had come themselves, bringing their three gifts to EXPRESS different aspects of Jesus life, the FINANCIAL TIMES reporting on the price of gold at the time, as well as the rate for frankincense and myrrh on the commodities market.

The PRESS AND JOURNAL, as always seeking a local angle, reported that one of the shepherds was reading the SCOTTISH FARMER when the angels interrupted him.



A GUARDIAN angel warned Joseph about the threat from Herod, who could not bear the thought of Jesus' INDEPENDENT ways: from Bethlehem to Calvary he was opposed by the establishment.

Things didn't end with Jesus, however, because he sent out apostles, in that culture, of course, all MAIL. They were of course fulltime, not just SUNDAY aPOSTles. (sorry about that!)

Truly, THE TIMES they were a-changing: the year of our Lord had come.

MESSY CHURCH

CLARE LAMBOURNE

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY

Another successful Messy Church took place in September with exciting stories, lively songs and fantastic crafts including beautiful candle lighthouses which were a real hit with everyone! Delicious soup and fresh fruit were enjoyed in the hall afterwards by all.

The Messy Church team have been working on the final session of the year which is taking place on Saturday 26th November from 4pm—6pm.

If you would like to help in any way, including the planning of the Messy Church sessions or assist on the day itself, then please let us know!



WHAT DO YOU DO ON NEW YEAR'S DAY?

ISABEL MACLEOD

For some folks, the 1st of January can be a long, boring and lonely day.

Maybe family live away or someone is working and you are on your own or perhaps you are just fed up of the repeats on TV.

Some folks just sleep or recover from their partying the night before.

So, this year, why not come along and join in a New Year's Day afternoon celebration?

Anyone is welcome to come along.

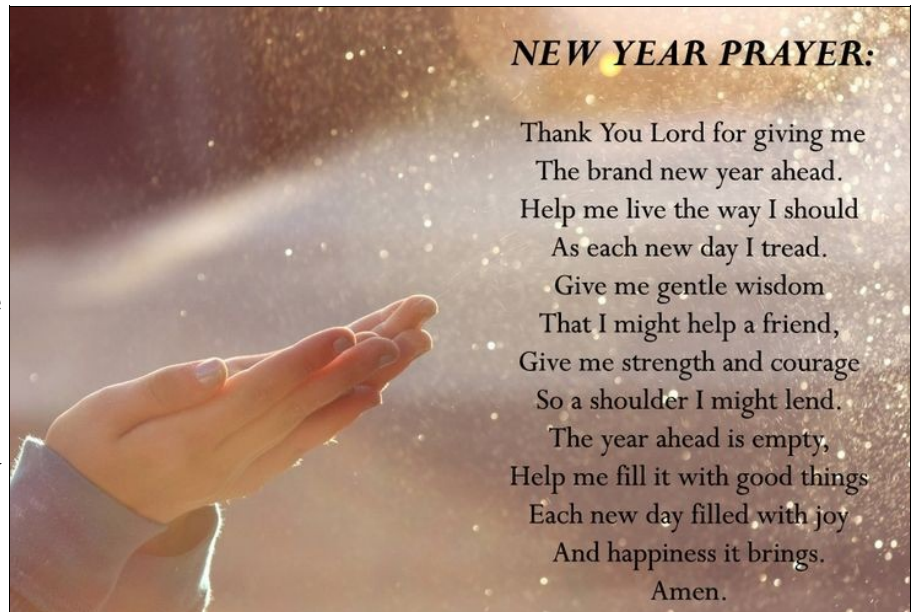
There will be light refreshments, a little bit of entertainment for all ages and a chance to say "Happy New Year" to friends and familiar faces.

The Church Hall at Bellie will be open between 2 pm and 4 pm and YOU are most welcome to come along or why not bring someone along with you and just relax and enjoy some friendship.

You could even share your 2017 resolutions with a friend. If you are younger, then feel free to bring a toy with you too.

Give yourself a good start to the new year.

See you there!



NEW YEAR PRAYER:

Thank You Lord for giving me
The brand new year ahead.
Help me live the way I should
As each new day I tread.
Give me gentle wisdom
That I might help a friend,
Give me strength and courage
So a shoulder I might lend.
The year ahead is empty,
Help me fill it with good things
Each new day filled with joy
And happiness it brings.
Amen.

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Articles for the spring issue
should be with the Editor
by 12th February 2017 at
the latest.

Scottish Charity Number

SCO05310

a jelly bean prayer

red is for the blood He gave.

green is for the grass He made.

yellow is for the sun so bright.

orange is for the edge of night.

black is for the sins we've made.
white is for the grace He gave.

purple is for His hour of sorrow.

pink is for the new tomorrow.

Handfuls of jelly beans, colorful and bright, a
prayer, a promise of a brand new life.

TIME FOR A QUICK SMILE SUBMITTED BY HELEN CAMPBELL

It just goes to show
how much thought
the Job Centre staff
near where I live put
into their work.
A young girl I know
had been working as a
window cleaner when
she lost her job.
The Job Centre asked
her what experience
she had got and sent
her for a job as a
Computer IT
Consultant because
she said she had got a
lot of experience with
Windows!!!