

Greetings from your Locum

The gospels tell us that Jesus restored the sight of many people which is certainly about physical healing but it is also about perception. Because Jesus not only restored sight to blind eyes he restored sight to blind souls as well; he gave people the ability to see the world around them in a different way. To see with eyes open to the beauties of God's creation, the ability to see the truth of God's love for them, and a reminder of what that meant for their concern for the needs of others.

I came across the following story about being blind to the needs of others. It made me think and perhaps you would like to think about it too. It is called 'The Brick' and it is about a young, successful, executive type who was driving his brand new, very expensive Porsche down the street. All was right with his world when suddenly a young lad threw a brick which smashed into the door of his beloved, shiny new car with a horrendously, expensive sounding - **bang!**

He slammed on the brakes and leapt out of the car. He was furious and ready to throttle the thug who had damaged his brand new, shiny, pride and joy. Grabbing the lad, he rammed him up against the nearest car and with his face inches from the boy's roared at him, 'You stupid idiot! That is going to cost me a fortune. Why did you do such a thing?' The young boy was in tears, 'Please mister I threw the brick because no one would stop.' And, with tears dripping down his chin, the boy pointed between two parked cars where the man saw a young lad sprawled on the road. 'It's my brother', the young lad sobbed. 'He fell out of his wheelchair – I can't lift him up and no one would stop to help.'

Still sobbing, the boy asked the, by now stunned and chastened, executive type to help him lift his brother back into his wheelchair. Trying to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat the man went to help. A quick look told him that the boy was okay, so he carefully lifted him back into the wheelchair and set it right on the pavement. 'Thank you and God bless you', said the grateful child to the driver who could only watch as the lad pushed his handicapped brother away along the pavement. It was a long, slow walk back to the Porsche where the damage was horrendously noticeable. But the story goes that the driver kept the livid scar on his door to remind him of this message, '*Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get*

your attention!'

Sometimes God speaks to us in whispers – and sometimes he speaks to us more clearly. But he often speaks to us in the needs of our neighbours and we need to be watching so that we can see before someone has to throw a brick at us.

God bless you all,

Morris



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Messy Church.....	2
Ode to a pill	3
Books of the Bible	3
Eco news	4
Why British Flowers?.....	5
Meat free Monday's.....	6
Take Note.....	7
Holiday Club	7
Bellie Babes	8
Young Church	9
Deaf Church	9
Spring Sale	10
Worship Team.....	11
Family Easter Service.....	12
The Praise Group	12
Bellie Welcome Rota	13
Speymouth Welcome Rota.....	14
Church newsletter jokes.....	14
Church and Society	15
'Books of the Bible' answers...15	
Baptisms/Weddings/Funerals	16
Getting to know you	16
Sunday Count.....	17
Young Church Afternoon Tea .	17
Dates for your diary	18
Advertisements and Events	18



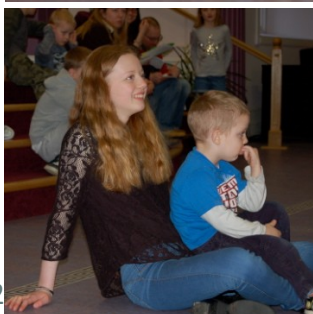


BY ISABEL MACLEOD PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY

At the end of March, Messy Church celebrated the Triumphal entry into Jerusalem by Jesus as a way of preparation for Easter. We had a good crowd of all ages attending to participate in the dramatised story, music, singing, activities, games and a meal together. This new expression of worship is an informal way to learn about the Bible and it gives an opportunity to ask questions and to have conversations and fellowship as part of our worship. We now have a number of regular families who come along and there were even some dads there too!



The next Messy Church takes place on **Saturday 4th June in Bellie church hall from 4-6 pm** and the theme will be "Around the World". Everyone is welcome to come along and join in the session. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Look out for posters, fliers, intimations on the website/ Facebook page as well as our new Messy Church banner. We are looking forward to seeing you there!



ODE TO A PILL SUBMITTED BY PETER CROMAR

Oh, little pill, here in my hand;
I wonder how you understand
just what to do or where to go,
to stop the aches that hurt me so.

Within your content lies relief,
You work alone in disbelief.
You sink in regions there below,
as down my throat you quickly go;
but how, I wonder, little pill,
how do you know where I am ill?
And, just how do you really know
just where you are supposed to go?

I've got a headache, that is true;
my broken bones need attention, too.
But, how can anything so small,
end my aches in no time at all?

Do you work alone, or do you hire a
crew,
to do the good things that you do?
I'm counting on you mighty strong,
to get in there where you belong.

Don't let me down, please do not shirk,
to do your undercover work.
So, down my throat, be on your way,
and end my aches for another day.
Don't take a wrong turn, is my plea;
I can't take another till after three



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE SUBMITTED BY HELEN CAMPBELL

Read the following paragraph and see if you can find the name of sixteen books of the Bible that are hidden in the text:

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not in capitals, but the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others, it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few minutes for you. Yes, there will be some easy ones to spot, others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to locate one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. One little lady says she brews a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph. (Answers can be found on page 15 of this 'Kirk News' edition.)

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____
9. _____ 10. _____ 11. _____ 12. _____
13. _____ 14. _____ 15. _____ 16. _____





TEN TIPS FOR ATTRACTING WILDLIFE INTO YOUR GARDEN AND CHURCHYARD. (by ecocongregationscotland.org)

This article came out on the eco-congregation website and although some of the tips should have been carried out earlier it raises awareness to practical creation care, attracting God's creatures into your gardens and church yards. However No4 might receive a mixed reaction up here in Moray or maybe we should be congratulating ourselves!

"Are not five sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God" Luke 12:6

1: Build and install a bird box

Spring is a wonderful time for bird watching and it's even better if you can attract a breeding pair. If you haven't got shrubs, bushes and hedgerows already, consider building and installing a bird box. Many of the UK's most common bird species are in decline as suitable habitat for feeding and breeding is paved over to make way for urbanisation. Putting a bird box or two up can really help them out and you get the joy of watching the chicks grow. There is no need to over complicate it – you can get started right away by building your own or purchasing an RSPB certified one from a local garden centre.

2: Install a Bird Feeder

Another great way of attracting birds to your garden is by putting in a feeder. Put out a combination of nuts, seeds, and fat-balls using different types of feeders to draw in variety. Different species have their favourites so include a range that means lots of birds can feed at once. Wood pigeons for example will feed off seeds on the ground which means the sparrows can have the hanging feeders to themselves. Be strategic on where you put your feeder to keep the birds safe. Put them in the open so the birds can keep watch for predators, but also near trees or bushes to provide refuge. Don't forget to keep the food fresh and topped up and be patient. Birds won't always notice food for several weeks but once they do and find it a consistently safe place to feed, they'll keep coming back! You can read tips on feeding British birds [here](#).

3: The Humble Bumble – Build a bee hotel

Unlike honey bees that live in hives, solitary bees like to have their own room in a bee hotel. These bees are an

essential part of pollination and maintaining healthy ecosystems so attracting them to your garden or churchyard is a great way to give them their space. From tucking them under window ledges to stacking old pallets, you can build hotels in all shapes and sizes to suit space and species. BugLife have a wide selection of tips and resources, not least straight forward instructions on [How to Build a Bug Hotel](#).

4: Have you considered Gardening for Bats?

Many people encounter bats as a nuisance when they find them making roosts in roof tops, belfries and church yards. This is because of the strict laws afforded to them in the wake of a severe decline in bat populations across the UK. Like a lot of British wildlife, Bats increasingly gravitate to urban areas as their natural habitat in the wild is destroyed. This is what makes it so important care for them as part of God's creation and to encourage them into your local area by building a bat box to roost in. If you've seen a bat in your garden or churchyard, why not get a bat detector and get a group together to listen to them and identify what species you've attracted? The Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) also have bat groups who can help you out and provide advice.

5: A wild patch

Is nature always messing up your garden? That's because it simply doesn't do tidy! From weeds in the flower beds to lichens on a tombstone, nature is always looking for a way to re-wild our work. One of the simplest ways of caring for creation is to let it do the work for you. This doesn't mean doing nothing but it might mean leaving that pile of rocks or letting the ivy grow by selectively letting a patch go wild. This can be as simple as leaving a pile of logs or leaves in an unruly corner or letting the grass grow by experimenting with an out-of-sight location. RSPB Scotland advocate giving the mower a rest and letting insects and birds roam the grass! You could even throw some wildflower seed down to grow attractive flowers in the patch you want to let slide.

6: Wildflower meadow

Wild patches are a great place to start but you can always give them a head start by sowing wildflower meadow. Wildflower meadows come in all shapes and sizes and are not only beautiful, but also great for giving birds and bees a place to feed and nest. Once sown, meadows will come back in flower every year and need very little management. Some wild flower species (yellow rattle) will even predate on grass, effectively doing the job for you! Be sure to get wild-flowers appropriate for Scotland then gather an eco-group or youth team and get sowing!

7: Compost!

Compost is great because it provides food for some creatures, habitat for others and eventually, rich soil from which more life can grow. It might not be as exciting as birds and bats, but good soil is habitat to many little creatures! Don't be afraid to throw your kitchen compostables into a compost bin and get your hands stirring it around. This is not only a sustainable, peat-free way of growing fruits and vegetables, but also a superb way to enrich poor soil by inviting worms and other wrigglers to work the soil for you. It also comes without packaging or flyer-miles!

8: Make a hedge!

Native bushes such as hawthorn, blackthorn, field maple or hazel are far better for wildlife than exotic shrubs or featureless fences. Spring is a great time to plant deciduous hedge species which will provide an invaluable complex ecosystem of wildlife all year round. Why not consider replacing some old fence panels with such a bird-friendly border? If you've got some room to play with, consider interlacing some dwarfing fruit trees to provide foraging treats for yourself as well. This is a great activity for small groups and eco-teams to get together and plant hope for the future.

9: Caterpillar Catering!

Who doesn't like to see a butterfly fluttering through the garden? But from hybrids and genetically modified seeds, butterfly populations in the UK are in decline. You can encourage butterflies into your garden by growing plants caterpillars like to eat. Butterflies will seek out particular plants to lay their eggs, so you can selectively place these to draw them in. Watching caterpillars and butterflies is a great activity to engage children in nature and it gets better if you're a gardener! Consider planting sacrificial vegetables within a butterfly border to lure butterflies away from your crops.

10: Think outside the Box

In order to really attract wildlife to your garden or church yards, you must consider creation as a whole. Wildlife doesn't respect our boundaries any more than the weather so think about your work as part of a network. Every effort you make will have a knock on effect on the wildlife around and about. Encourage your friends, family and neighbours to join you in making room for nature and you'll begin to see more wildlife in your area. Trying to think outside the box! If you haven't got a garden, maybe someone in your congregation needs help tending theirs? Consider helping the grounds keeper manager your churches' property or getting a group together to transform derelict land into a community meadow. What a way to share God's hope for the world by bringing dead land back to life?

This material was researched and produced by Paul Williams at Eco-Congregation Scotland.

©2015 Eco-Congregation Scotland Scottish Registered Charity SC041287 Scottish Registered Company SC372366

Rag Bags

The recent Rag Bag collection raised £114 which is excellent. The money from this will be going to the Tower fund.

A note came with the letter "Please be aware we can now only accept WEARABLE Clothing, PAIRED Shoes, Handbags and belts. To find out more check their website www.rag-bag.co.uk



Why British Flowers?

Why is there a need for an organisation like Flowers from the Farm? – We're a nation of farmers, of gardeners, of flower lovers and our cut flower industry is worth 2.2 billion pounds each year. But unfortunately look in our supermarkets, our florists, and our flower wholesalers, and you'll see that unlike in the last century, when we grew the majority of the flowers that were sold in this country, British growers are now down to between 10 and 15% of the market. Most of the flowers available for sale in this country are imported.

There are also very few varieties that are available. Your supermarket will probably have Daffodils, and Tulips, Alstroemerias, Lillies and Stocks, Sunflowers, Gerbera and Roses, but then you have to start thinking quite hard to get different varieties that are likely to be available. Florists try hard to stock a wider range, but even they are stymied by the wholesale market that only takes flowers that are hardy enough to be transported round the world via Holland, and those flowers may be 6-8 days since picking before they get to our retailers, let alone our homes.

The artisan growers and florists who make up the members of Flowers from the Farm are trying to stop and reverse that trend.

On the pages of this website, you will find growers who love flowers that are scented, fleeting in nature, beautiful in colour, and don't travel well. But that doesn't matter, because they are local to you. They are just down the road, in the next town, on the farm round the corner, so when you buy these flowers they won't have travelled thousands of air miles, the van miles will be counted in tens and units. Our growers love Sweet peas and Dahlias, Roses and Anemones, Gladioli and Ranunculus, and we know that everything has a season for you to enjoy them.

So next time you want to send a thank-you bouquet, when you want to celebrate, or commiserate, or just make the kitchen table look beautiful, take a look at our pages of British Growers, and use them to buy local, lovingly grown blooms, and help the British Flower industry grow again, as well as filling your house with beauty.

This article is from www.flowersfromthefarm.co.uk and although none of the British Growers are situated as far up as us we certainly could produce as good from our own gardens. "Organic flower cultivation is especially important as the cut flower industry uses vast quantities of artificial fertilisers, herbicides and pesticides to produce stock that is high in yield, uniformity and resilient to global transportation by air". (Andrea Jones, Mayfield Flowers in Stewarton.) We love our flowers at the church and always have beautiful displays thanks to the flower teams. However I thought that this article might encourage you to use the flowers from your garden more for around your home or to give as a friendly gesture and even for sale at coffee mornings.

British Flower week 13th – 19th June 2016

VEGETARIAN QUICHE

Ingredients

125g/4oz plain flour pinch of salt
55g/2oz butter, cubed 30-45ml/2-3 tbsps cold water

Method

1. Put the flour and salt in a large bowl and add the cubes of butter.
2. Use your fingertips to rub the butter into the flour until you have a mixture that resembles coarse breadcrumbs with no large lumps of butter remaining. Try to work quickly so that it does not become greasy.
3. Using a knife, stir in just enough of the cold water to bind the dough together.
4. Wrap the dough in clingfilm and chill for 10-15 minutes before using.
5. Alternatively using a food processor, put the flour, butter and salt in the food processor and pulse until the fat is rubbed into the flour.
6. With the motor running, gradually add the water through the funnel until the dough comes together. Only add enough water to bind it and then stop.
7. Wrap the dough in clingfilm as before and chill for 10-15 minutes before using.

VARIATION - for extra texture and flavour you can replace half the flour with oatmeal and add 25g grated mature cheddar and a tbsp finely chopped chives, or onions

For the filling

250g/9oz Mature Scottish cheddar, grated 5 eggs, beaten
4 tomatoes, sliced (optional) salt 100ml/3½fl oz milk
200g/7oz leftover cooked veg like broccoli, cauliflower, asparagus, sweet corn, roasted peppers chopped
200ml/7fl oz double cream freshly ground black pepper
2 sprigs of fresh thyme

Method

1. Roll out the pastry on a light floured surface and line a well-buttered flan ring or dish. Don't cut off the edges of the pastry yet. Chill again.
2. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5.
3. Remove the pastry case from the fridge and line the base of the pastry with baking parchment and then fill it with baking beans. Place on a baking tray and bake blind for 20 minutes. Remove the beans and parchment and return to the oven for another five minutes to cook the base
4. Reduce the temperature of the oven to 160C/325F/Gas 3.
5. Sprinkle the cheese into the pastry base and add the sliced tomatoes if you are using them or roasted vegetables, then sprinkle chopped onion over the top.
6. Combine the eggs with the milk and cream in a bowl and season well. Pour over the vegetables and cheese. Sprinkle the thyme over the top and trim the edges of the pastry.
7. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until set. Remove from the oven and allow to cool and set further.
8. Trim the pastry edges to get a perfect edge and then serve in wedges.

STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING

6oz chopped dates – chop quite small 2oz butter
2 eggs half tsp vanilla essence 6oz caster sugar
1tsp bicarbonate of soda 6oz self raising flour

For the Sauce:

4oz butter 4oz soft dark brown sugar 4oz double cream

Method

Boil the dates in half a pint of water and add the bicarbonate of soda. Ideally whizz in blender to really chop up fine and make the puddings more moist. Cream the sugar and butter. Add the eggs, flour and vanilla.

Pour over dates and mix. Bake at 350F for 30-40mins.

For the sauce either melt ingredient's together in pan or microwave and allow to come to the boil.

NB you can also allow the icing to cool and then mix in icing sugar to make a fudgy icing and spread over the top of cooled sponge to make sticky toffee cakes.

WHITE CHOCOLATE CREAMY FUDGE

4oz Butter

1lb 10oz Granulated Sugar

1 Large Can Evaporated Milk

8oz White Chocolate

Vanilla Essence (a few drops)

Method

Melt butter in a large heavy based pan then add sugar and milk.

Heat slowly, stirring occasionally until sugar dissolves.

Once sugar has dissolved, boil quite rapidly for approx. 20 minutes or until a soft ball formed when dropped into cold water.

Remove from heat, beat in chocolate and vanilla essence.

Pour into pre-greased tray and leave to set.

MILLIONAIRES SHORTBREAD

4oz Butter 4oz Margarine 4oz icing
8oz plain flour 4oz cornflour

Shortbread base

Press into large Swiss Roll Tray and bake 160 -180C for 25 – 30 mins until crisp and golden brown

4oz Butter 4oz Margarine 8oz Caster Sugar
1 Large Can Condensed Milk 1 Tbl Sp. Syrup

Melt altogether in a large heavy based pan. Allow to boil for 4 – 5 mins. Pour over shortbread base.

TOP WITH MELTED CHOCOLATE

TAKE NOTE DENISE AND NEIL BROWN

Although this is usually a quiet time for Take Note, we have been busy lately. We enjoyed a visit from Rev. Morris Smith and we think he enjoyed it too, although we did wear him out! He was surprised to hear Take Note singing some songs that he used to sing in his youth and was amazed how they were enjoying them! Rev Morris invited Take Note to sing two songs in the Easter Family Service and it was good to see some of our families coming along.



As part of the promotion of Bellie and Speymouth Church at Heart and Soul in Edinburgh, it was decided that a CD should be made of the various music groups within the church. It was very challenging getting our songs recorded on a Friday evening. We did plan to have 5 songs but just about managed 3!! We were pleased with the finished CD and are taking it to Edinburgh for Sunday 22nd May.

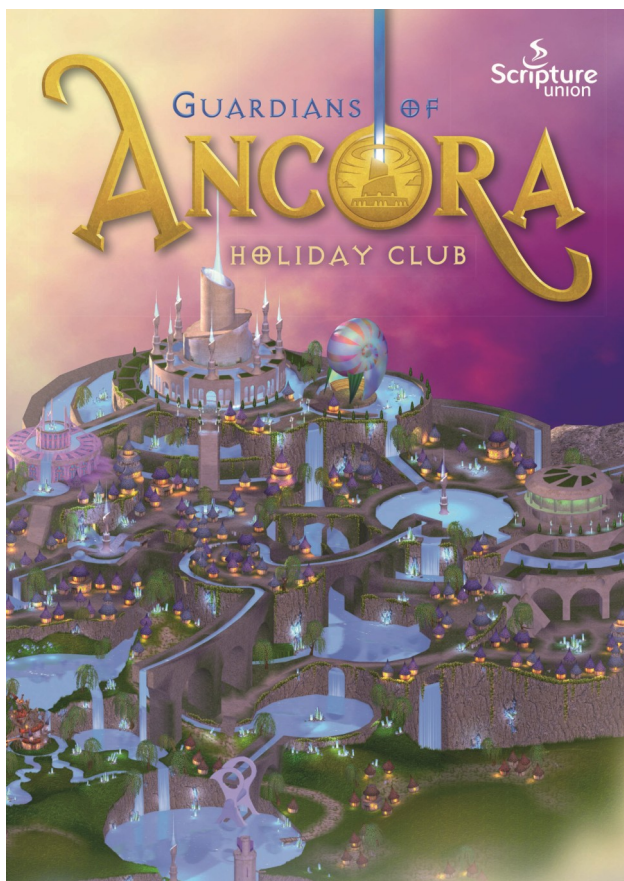
Now we are busy practising songs for our trip to Greyfriars Club in Elgin on Thursday 19th May. The following week Take Note will be singing at the Concert in aid of Syrian Refugees in Bellie Church, which should be an excellent evening of music. You can also hear us at Milnes Primary School Fete on Sunday 12th June in Fochabers Playing Field.

We have realised that Take Note has been running for 20 years this year!! No wonder we have a few grey hairs!! Fiona and Debbie are organising a birthday party for Take Note which will take place on Friday 17th June.

Our end of term Family Fun Night will take place on Friday 24th June. This evening is open to all family members, so we are looking forward to having a couple of fun weeks at the end of term.



BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH HOLIDAY CLUB 2016 DENISE BROWN



Monday 8th August 2016 – Friday 12th August 2016

This year our Holiday Club has a slightly different format, with 4 mornings and 1 afternoon (Friday) followed by a BBQ tea for all the families. This will leave the Hall free for Bellie Babes to have their own Holiday Club morning on Friday 12th August..

We are still looking for helpers and if you are able to support in any way please contact Denise Brown or Ann Bowie.

Prayer cards will be available shortly and we would ask you to pray for this work with the children this summer.

The theme of 'Guardians of Ancora' is sure to be a hit with the children!



BELLIE BABES ANNETTE MEIGHAN PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY

Since January we have been delighted to welcome many new faces to Bellie Babes, increasing our numbers, and now we are the busiest we have ever been. It is so exciting to see lots of little ones every Friday morning, and we are averaging 25 children every week. Our 'Craft Friday's' once a month took off on a tentative start but on Good Friday we had an exceptionally busy session based on a 'junior messy church' craft theme with lots of craft activities to make and do with the adults, including a couple of things which meant getting messy! We had story time and a song time too.



We have a very busy couple of months coming up, we are having two visits from 'Earthtime', one in May and one in June; a Teddy bears picnic in June, a Mum's night out in July, our regular 'Craft Friday's', welcoming the older siblings in the school holidays and our very own session at Holiday Club – a first ever, which is so exciting.



June is also the National month of Prayer for Toddler Groups and during June you will be hearing more from me about this in the intimations, asking you all to pray for Bellie Babes and all the Christian Toddler groups around the UK. 'Living life to the full' is this year's theme and John 10v10 is the bible verse – 'I have come that they may have life and have it to the full'.

The National month of Prayer is promoted by an Ecumenical group called 1277. (The approximate number of days that a child in the UK has between birth and starting nursery). 1277 work collaboratively with Care for the family – the charity that we use at Bellie Babes for resources and it is also one of the Guild's projects.

I hope that when the flyer is launched in the intimations in June, that we can count on you for your prayer support for the work of Bellie Babes and the families we work alongside.



YOUNG CHURCH MARGARET MCINNES

As we approach the end of a busy spring session which has seen the children enjoying some very exciting sessions on a Sunday morning, we are looking forward to a couple of important dates and something new for the month of July!



Firstly, on Sunday 5th June we invite you to join us and Katie Horton as we help Katie to raise funds towards her Limpopo expedition with Operation Wallacea. We plan that there will be something for everyone during the afternoon at Bellie Church Hall and Garden, 2.00 – 4.00pm.

Our next important date is Sunday 19th June when we will be leaving from church to visit the Dolphin Centre at Spey Bay, where after a Dry Dive we plan to have a family picnic before some geo caching and treasure hunting!

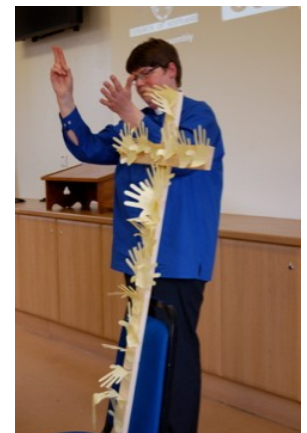
During July our young families who are not away on holiday are invited to continue meeting in Bellie Church hall and garden from 10.00 – 11.00am at Summer Sunday Club! We plan that Summer Sunday Club will be fun packed and as far as possible out of doors in the glorious summer sunshine.



DEAF CHURCH REV MARY WHITTAKER



On Sunday 1st May, there was a special Joint service with Moray Deaf Church and Aberdeen's St. John's Church for Deaf People at Bellie Church.



We had special guests - the Moderator of the Church of Scotland Right Revd. Dr. Angus Morrison and his wife Mrs Morrison came to the service lead by Deaf people. There were no voice-over but access was by powerpoint and interactive prayer. The kirk's most senior minister preached on developing a 'Gratitude Attitude' based on Psalm 107: 1-9 and Philippians 4: 4-9 with the help of an interpreter. The whole event was a great blessing and enjoyable with about 30 people attending - thanks be to God!



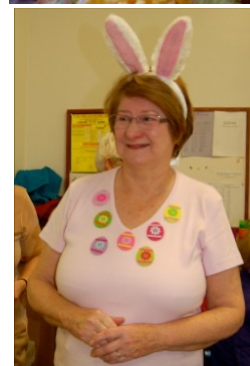


SPRING SALE DENISE BROWN PHOTOS BY ANNE MURRAY

As you can see from the photos, everyone enjoyed the Spring Sale morning. We were delighted with the big turnout of Easter bonnets made by young and old. The bonnets were on parade around the hall, before being judged by Jan and her daughter. The winning adult was Moira Hynd and Kathryn Bell was the children's winner. Many thanks to all who made the effort to decorate their bonnets.



There was a special visit from the Easter bunny, ably assisted by baby bunny! The Fellowship Team and their helpers were really busy on the stalls and serving hot cross buns and coffee and a magnificent sum of £1,610 was raised for the tower fund.



BELLIE AND SPEYMOUTH WORSHIP TEAM LIZ RENNIE

As Summer approaches, it seems a long time since the Easter Celebrations. Worship Team members led the morning devotions during Holy Week and it was encouraging to have a faithful group who attended on some or all of the morning times of reflection.



The morning of Good Friday was an exciting one and Worship Team members were very happy to support the Bellie Babes Team as they celebrated Easter in a very happy and special way. What a wonderful turn out of families with babies and toddlers who enjoyed an action packed, fun filled



morning session which included crafting opportunities with loads of glue and stickiness! There was also time for sharing a short Easter Message during quiet, story time followed by some action songs, with the Spring Chicken Song proving to be a favourite again! After snack everyone went home with all of their Easter treasures lovingly made during the session. It is great for Worship Team to work with Bellie Babes and all of their 'Friends' in this shared venture.



Milnescroft Worship - residents of Milnescroft and other friends have enjoyed Rev Morris Smith's message during Milnescroft Evening Worship Services. Communion was celebrated on Sunday 24 April and on Sunday 5 June, Milnescroft Worship will be led by the Guild.



Some time has passed since our initial adverts seeking an Organist for Speymouth Church. I am pleased to say a volunteer has come forward and indeed played at Speymouth for the first time on Sunday 22 May. Mrs Katherine Milne, from Elgin has kindly agreed to play at Speymouth and we wish her well as she gets to know all the good people there. It would be good to have one or two other players who may be available on an occasional basis to add to the Rota. If anyone knows of any organists - please get in touch with me.

OUR NEW CHURCH FACEBOOK PAGE



Facebook users are invited to 'like' and 'share' our new Bellie and Speymouth Church page which highlights our services of worship and the many events and activities that take place in our congregations.

FAMILY EASTER SERVICE & SUNDAY CLUB ALISON PATTERSON

Our Sunday Club youngsters and members of the Congregation enjoyed supporting this year's "Water Aid" Lent Appeal which involved filling jars with loose change. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project and also to the people who counted the money.



During our Family Easter Service, the youngsters were responsible for distributing paper daffodils to members of the Congregation. All members were invited to write a particular concern, a prayer or a person's name on the daffodils which were placed in front of the Cross on the chancel during the prayer for others.



After members of Take Note led us into worship with a fabulous (and energetic) rendition of "Jesus is alive" the youngsters of Young Church eagerly joined them for the action chorus "I'm in-right, out-right, down-right, happy thru' and thru". What a joyful sound with so many happy faces and lots of arms going in all directions – throughout the Congregation!

Our outing to Spey Bay is eagerly awaited on Sunday 19th. June when we hope the sun will shine enabling us to enjoy various planned activities and of course - our picnic!

THE PRAISE GROUP MARJORIE PARK

In February we were invited to sing in an evening Songs of Praise in Nairn Old Parish Church by the Rev Alison Mehigan. It was a very successful evening and the Praise Group were given a very warm welcome by the congregation. We sang a selection of 7 pieces and also taught the congregation a round. It brought back for me very happy memories of taking part in services there when I was growing up in Nairn.



In March we took part in the Moray Music Festival. We were the only choir entered in our class and were required to sing 2 pieces one of which had to be a hymn. We chose to sing 'Be Still' and 'Hossana' and were awarded a Commended certificate. The adjudicators comments were complimentary - "a well presented and well trained choir."



In our performance of 'Be Still' it was commented that there was good balance between the parts, good dynamics and attention to detail. He felt that Hosanna was a good contrasting piece and and it was sung with "good strong rhythmic attack."

At Easter the Praise Group took part in both Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday.

If you enjoy singing you are very welcome to come and sing in the Praise Group. We meet on Monday evenings from 7.00 - 8.00pm.

BELLIE WELCOME ROTA

Team Leaders

	07 August 2016	14 August 2016	21 August 2016	28 August 2016	04 September 2016	11 September 2016	18 September 2016	25 September 2016	02 October 2016	09 October 2016	16 October 2016	23 October 2016	30 October 2016	06 November 2016	13 November 2016	20 November 2016	27 November 2016	04 December 2016	11 December 2016	18 December 2016	25 December 2016	01 January 2017
McConnachie John	Res																					
BROWN, Betty																						
Clark Avril																						
Raffan, Ann																						
Murray Anne																						
Borthwick, George																						
Cromar, Peter																						
Rennie, Liz																						
Bowie, Ann																						
Fettes, Catherine																						
Lambourne, Clare																						
Brown, Denise																						
CAMPBELL, Chris																						
MacLeod, Isabel																						
Jones, Joan																						
Park, Marjorie																						
McNNES, Margaret																						
Alexander, James																						
MEIGHAN, Annette																						
TRAVERS, Brian																						

TEAMS

	07 August 2016	14 August 2016	21 August 2016	28 August 2016	04 September 2016	11 September 2016	18 September 2016	25 September 2016	02 October 2016	09 October 2016	16 October 2016	23 October 2016	30 October 2016	06 November 2016	13 November 2016	20 November 2016	27 November 2016	04 December 2016	11 December 2016	18 December 2016	25 December 2016	01 January 2017
CROSBY, Wendy																						
McCONNACHE, Sandra																						
MILLS, Helen																						
MILLS, John																						
CAMERON, Donald																						
CAMERON, Jenny																						
NICHOLSON, Heather																						
BRUCE, Sandra																						
HAROLD, Irene																						
CAMERON, Evan																						
HALIDAY, Carol																						
Yvonne Matheson																						
RAMSEY, Jean																						
GILLESPIE, Ishbel																						
GILLESPIE, Hugh																						
HORTON, Vivien																						
ADAM, Marjory																						
CLARK, Alison																						
DAWSON, Joyce																						
ECKERSLEY, Isabel																						
Lorraine Cant																						
Kathleen Milne																						
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																						



10 July 2016
17 July 2016
24 July 2016
31 July 2016
04 September 2016
11 September 2016
18 September 2016
25 September 2016
02 October 2016
09 October 2016
16 October 2016
23 October 2016
30 October 2016
06 November 2016
13 November 2016
20 November 2016
27 November 2016
04 December 2016
11 December 2016
18 December 2016

[illegible]

This afternoon, there will be a meeting in the north and south ends of the church. The children will be baptised at both ends.

Wednesday, at 4:00 p.m. there will be an ice cream social. All the ladies giving milk will please come early.

This being Easter Sunday, we will as Mrs. Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Wednesday, the Ladies Liturgy Society will meet. Mrs. Johnson will sing: "Put Me in My Little Bed," accompanied by the pastor.

The services will close with "Little Drops Of Water." One of the ladies will start quietly and the rest of the congregation will join in.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement on Friday afternoon.

A bean supper will be held Saturday evening in the church basement. Music will follow.

The rosebud on the altar this morning is to announce the birth of David Alan Belser, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Julius Belser.

Tonight's sermon: 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Ha ha ha! Ha ha !!! Ha ha !!!

CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL JOHN MCCONNACHIE

At this year's General Assembly, Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, of the Church and Society Council presented her final address as Convenor. After four years in post, Sally hands over the reins to Rev Dr Richard Frazer of Greyfriars Church in Edinburgh.



During her time as convenor, Sally has guided the Church and Society Council through some tricky times. However she has never faltered in her prime purpose to stand up for the poor, the oppressed, the dispossessed and those on the margins of society. She has expressed her love of Jesus in a positive manner and tackled some difficult issues which are unpopular, especially with some politicians eg the plight of refugees. A preacher of considerable talent, she can sometimes tell a familiar story from a different viewpoint – her tale of the Three Little Pigs from the perspective of the wolf, was a classic. Her short sermon on how often the Bible says, 'Do not be afraid' was a great inspiration to those about to take on a new role or task. However she now moves on to become the new head of Christian Aid – they don't know what is about to hit them!

Rev Dr Richard Frazer has served on the Church and Society Council as Vice-Convenor for the last year and takes over the big chair after the General Assembly. Richard became a minister in 1986 and spent ten years as minister at St Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, prior to coming to Greyfriars in 2003. He was instrumental in setting up the Grassmarket Community Project (GCP) which offers support to some of the area's most vulnerable people. Among other activities, the GCP operates a café, open to the public. If you are in Edinburgh, why not pop in for lunch! Like Sally, Richard shows his love of Christ by getting alongside those at the edges of society, often those who may be difficult to love. He does this in practical ways. All of this experience will be of great value to the Church and Society Council over the next four years.

Although these people may seem far from our local community, they are part of our larger Church family. At times it is necessary to lift our eyes from our local issues and see the great work which is done by our Church in caring for the less fortunate in our society. Remember them in your prayers.

THE ANSWERS TO THE 16 BIBLE BOOKS TEXT ON PAGE 3

I once made a re**MARK** about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lu**LU**, **KE**pt people loo**KING** so hard for **FACTS** and for others it was a **REVELATION**. Some were in a **JAM** **ES**pecially since the names of the books were not in capitals, but the **trUTH** finally struck home to **NUMBERS** of our readers. To others, it was a real **JOB**. We want it to be **A MOST** fascinating few minutes for you. **YES**, **THERe** will be some easy ones to spot, others may require **JUDGES** to help them. I will quickly admi**T IT** **US**ually takes a minister to locate one of them, and there will be loud **LAMENTATIONS** when it is found. One little lady says s**HE BREWS** a cup of tea, so she can concentrate better. See how well you can com**PETE**. **Relax** now for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.



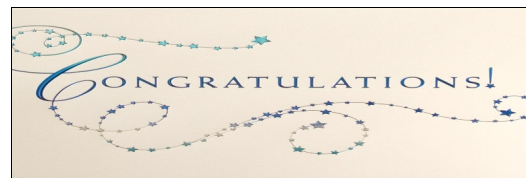
WANTED! AVRIL CLARK

We are wanting a donation of **a high chair or two** for the Messy Church if anyone has one surplus to requirement we would be grateful to receive it.



WEDDING

On 2nd April 2016, Lorraine McAuslan and Leslie Beange, of Bogmoor, at Bellie Parish Church.



GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!

LANIE SIDNEY

I have been at Bellie since....Aug 2014.

I came to Bellie because...I moved back to the area after being away 15 years.

One thing I enjoy about Bellie is.... the friendships I have made.

I find a lot of joy in.... being a mum and a wife, the most fulfilling and amazing thing that has ever happened in my life. I am truly blessed.

If I won the lottery I would.... take all the people I care deeply about away on a massive cruise, sort out any of their worries that money could help with. I would donate lots to the charities that are close to my heart.

If I was stranded on a deserted island and could have one luxury item with me, it would be.... white Grenache, it's my fave wine and best drunk in the sun!!

If I could travel anywhere in the world, it would be to.... Florida, I'm not really into the whole Disney thing (although I'm sure the kids would) but one of my best friends moved over there a few years ago and I'd love to spend time getting to know her kids. And gossip over tea with her.

The title of a book about me would be.... "how does she get through the day". My life is so incredibly busy I'm so ditsy these days!!

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be.... rebirth. I am amazed by how life can change, once you let God in.

If I could go back in time, I would travel to... 1998 because I would want some more time with my Granda, I miss him so much and would have loved him to meet my kids.

Once upon a time I.... was a staunch non believer.



CAROLINE MARQUIS

I have been at Bellie since.... 1957 (yes I'm getting old). This was 2 years before the Linkage in 1959.

I came to Bellie because.... that was where my Mum and Dad worshipped and my paternal grandparents along with other family members. It was where I was baptised at 10 weeks old. Bellie is also where my husband Alex and I got married and also renewed our wedding vows on our Silver Anniversary. Our sons Keith and Wayne were both baptised in Bellie Church and attended Sunday School and Bible Class at Bellie.

One thing I enjoy about Bellie is.... the friendship, along with compassion and support offered when times are tough.

I find a lot of joy in.... spending time with my granddaughters Lily 9, Hayley 7, Rya 6 and Lola 5. I also get a lot of joy in looking after people which is why I love my job as an Auxiliary Nurse.

If I won the lottery.... I would take my 4 granddaughters to Disney World Florida. I would spoil the rest of the family and give to charities close to my heart, the Church, Help for Heroes and Turners Syndrome Society.

I would love to travel to.... Canada to see the Niagara Falls with Alex. My parents took me when I was sixteen and I have always wanted to go back. Who knows maybe we can do this for our Ruby Wedding.

If I was stranded on a deserted island, my luxury item would be.... my iphone as I love to stay in touch. Mind you I doubt I would get a signal.

The title of a book about me would be... "Go Getter" as I'm a determined individual and have been described as a go getter.

If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be.... Butterflies as I love butterflies.

If I could go back in time, it would travel to... 1980 when I married Alex besides being one of the happiest days of my life it was one of the last times that my parents, my brothers and I managed to be all together at the same time for a happy event.

Once upon a time.... I dreamt of becoming a nurse or working in an office. I have been extremely lucky to pursue careers in both administration and nursing so dreams really can come true.

BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH SUNDAY COUNT CHRIS CAMPBELL

The Kirk Session has been reviewing the current arrangements for counting the offering on Sunday mornings. For some time, the Finance Team has been assisted by some of the Welcome Team in counting the offering.

This arrangement has not worked as well as could have been hoped and it has been decided to move away from this system at the end of June and instead have a separate Sunday count rota for both Bellie and Speymouth.

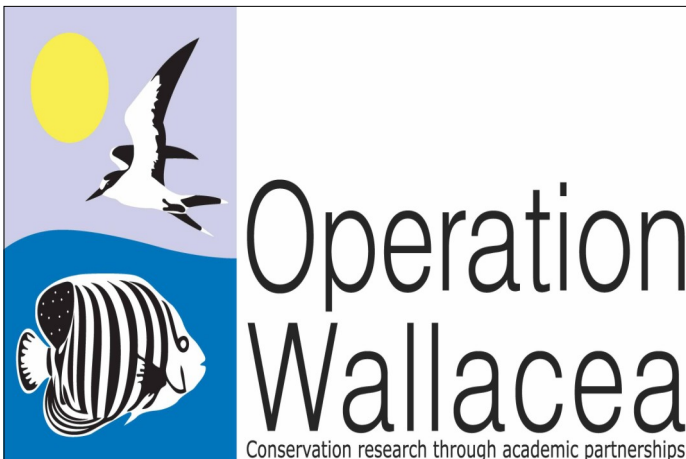
Some members of the congregation enjoy counting the offering, whereas there may be others who enjoy welcoming everyone to church on a Sunday morning but counting money is not their forte and they may even find it an uncomfortable experience. The new way of working will hopefully be a positive step and simplify the workload of the Welcome Team each week.

If you would like to join the new Sunday count rota please get in touch with any member of the Finance Team (Betty Brown, Marjory Whyte, Joan Jones and myself at Bellie and Olive Jenkins and Jenny Reid at Speymouth), who will be pleased to hear from you!!



YOUNG CHURCH AFTERNOON TEA KATIE HORTON

I am currently finishing the second year of my Zoology Degree at Aberdeen University and through this have taken the opportunity to volunteer with Operation Wallacea.



Operation Wallacea is an organisation that runs a series of biological and conservation management research programmes in remote locations across the world.

On 28th July 2016 I embark on the adventure of my dreams when I travel to the Limpopo region of South Africa.

As a volunteer Research Assistant I will be working with a large team of specialist scientists who are researching various aspects of biodiversity.

After initial bush craft skill and savannah ecology training I will be helping with the camera trap survey, herbivore transects and bird surveys.

To help fund my trip Bellie Young Church are supporting me to host a fund raising **Afternoon Tea in the Bellie Church Hall and Garden**, weather permitting, on **Sunday 5th June 2016 2pm – 4pm.**

I will be available to give more information on the work of Operation Wallacea and my specific trip.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 19 June 2016	After Children's Address	Whale and Dolphin Centre	Young Church Family fun
Sunday 26 June 2016	10.00am	Bellie Church	Family Service YC end of session.
	11.30am	Speymouth Church	Sunday worship
Sunday 3 July 2016	10.00am	Speymouth Church	Sunday worship
Sunday 10 July 2016	10.00am	Speymouth Church	Sunday worship
Sunday 17 July 2016	10.00am	Speymouth Church	Sunday worship
Sunday 24 July 2016	10.00am	Speymouth Church	Sunday worship
Sunday 31 July 2016	10.00am	Speyfest tented village	Ecumenical worship
Sunday 7 August 2016	10.00am	Bellie Church	Sunday worship
Sunday 14 August 2016	10.00am	Bellie Church	End of Holiday Club
Sunday 21 August 2016	10.00am	Bellie Church	Sunday worship
Sunday 28 August 2016	10.00am	Bellie Church	Family Service
Sunday 4 September 2016	10.00am	Bellie Church	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	11.30am	Speymouth Church	Sacrament of Holy Communion
	6.00pm	Milnescroft	Sacrament of Holy Communion (seated)

CONTACT US:
Session Clerk –
John McConnachie
7 Woodside Place, Fochabers
IV32 7HE

Phone: 01343 820671
E-mail:
jmconnachie78@gmail.com

Editor—Mrs Clare Lambourne
The Lodge, West Street,
Fochabers
IV32 7HG

Phone: 07971 053354
E-mail: clare002@hotmail.com

**Articles for the spring
issue should be with the
Editor by 14th August
2016 at the latest.**

Scottish Charity Number
SCO05310



Bellie and
Speymouth Church

COFFEE MORNING

In Speymouth Hall
On Sat 18 June 2016
10am—12 noon



**Operation
Wallacea**
Conservation research through academic partnerships

Afternoon Tea

In Bellie Church Hall
and Garden
On Sun 5 June 2016
2pm – 4pm

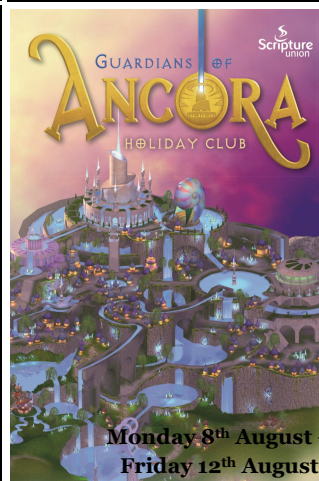
Brew and Blether

At Speymouth
Church Hall
Between 2.00pm
and 3.30pm on
Friday 3 June 2016
Friday 1 July 2016
Friday 5 August 2016
Friday 2 September 2016
You'll be most welcome



In Bellie Church & Hall
On Sat 4 June 2016
4pm – 6pm

EVERYONE WELCOME



Contact the Editor
(07971 053354 or
clare002@hotmail.com)
for details including
rates and distribution