

March 2016

# KIRK NEWS

Dear Friends

Greetings from your Locum

Every year Jan and I spend our summer holidays just outside a town called Elne which is just south of Perpignan in the South of France. It is wonderfully located between the mountains and the coast so that we can choose whether to explore the coastal villages, spend time on the beach or go walking in the mountains. One of the things that we love to do is plan our journey which we make by train starting from Elgin to Inverness, then to London to catch the Eurostar to Paris. We spend an overnight in Paris and finally travel on to Perpignan via TGV. It is an exciting journey with lots more to see than is possible in any airport or from an aeroplane. No matter how often we make the journey we always notice new things and learn new things along the way. Either at the station as we wait for our train, of the different vistas that flash past as we zip through the French countryside at high speed, or about our fellow passengers on the train. There is always something new to see and learn and remember.

By the time you read this we will be in the season of Lent and people often get the wrong idea about Lent by thinking it is all about what we should give up. So if you want to give up chocolate or cream buns, or anything else for that matter, then go ahead but don't think that is what Lent is about. Because, Lent is really a journey of preparation for Easter. A journey of exploration and discovery on which we can learn new things about ourselves and about God. So how might we use the season of Lent? Well on any journey there is always waiting time albeit there is usually less time spent waiting for trains than at airports. The Psalmist wrote, 'My soul waits for the Lord, and in his word I hope; my soul waits for the Lord more than those who watch for the morning.' Psalm 130: 5 -6.

Of course, waiting on the Lord is not about doing nothing. The Psalmist speaks of his soul waiting on the Lord - which suggests that he has a longing deep within for God, an anticipation of what God might do. He also hopes in God's word and he longs for the light of God's word more than someone waiting restlessly for the dawn of a new day. To wait on the Lord is to have this sense of anticipation and longing, this hope in God and his word. It is an active, prayerful concentration and reflection on God and his Word throughout the forty days of Lent. We can do this with one of the many Lenten studies available or by reading through a Gospel or one of Paul's letters. This year I am reading a book called simply 'Abraham' by Meg Warner that reflects on Abraham's journey from Haran to Canaan.

Whatever we choose Lent is a journey on which we spend time with God in reading, reflection and prayer. A journey on which we may think we know where we are going and yet we may find that God has different ideas and leads us to discover new

things and to arrive at a different destination. So, if you still want to give something up for Lent then by all means do and perhaps you could put what you save in a jar for the Young Church collection for Water Aid. But please make sure that you also take time to 'wait on the Lord', and that you are open to all the new things he can teach you.

God bless,

*Morris*



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## BELLIE BABES ANNETTE MEIGHAN

We had a very busy time leading up to Christmas with probably our busiest Christmas party this year so far. 34 Children and 60 Adults joined a team of 20 'friends' and helpers for a 'young messy church' style morning of nativity themed crafts in the Church before hearing the nativity story in word and song with 2 well known and loved Christmas carols.



Then we all went into the hall for party snacks before a very large circle of pass the parcel was attempted! Father Christmas made a very welcome visit and had 2 very heavy bags to carry in! All in all a very successful and fun morning and a very big thank you to my team of helpers.



Since January it has been back to normal business in our regular Friday sessions though they have not been quiet ones. We have started to introduce a craft Friday once a month which was a good success in January. The children loved getting messy as did the adults!

A group of Mum's had a lovely night out in January for our late Christmas meal. A civilised hot meal with no disturbances - bliss!

Future events planned are Craft Friday's (the 3rd Friday of the month) and then an Easter Celebration on Good Friday. If you have or know of anyone with pre-school children or anyone who is pregnant then please encourage them to join us on a Friday morning. A warm welcome is always waiting for them.

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### 'THE PRESENT'

SUBMITTED BY PETER CROMAR

*The past is history tomorrow is  
a mystery and today is a gift  
thats why its called the present*



## BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH GUILD MARGARET KING

Already we are nearing the end of this year's 'official' meetings – [we will continue with informal monthly outings to pleasant 'eateries' around Moray during the summer months]



We 'brought in the new year' with *fellowship around a cuppa* at Speymouth and round *God's Word* with *Rev David Whyte*, being reminded that being a peace-maker is a risky business and people who work for justice and peace are often thought by the establishment to be trouble-makers in their day, including Jesus! We were inspired by Diane McLeish's Challenges, ranging from losing 4 stone in weight to her *Wilderness Trek in South Africa* in aid of *Help for Heroes*. I shared my memories of the *Team Romania* experience and Ruth Jeffries explained the history and new ways of campaigning for peace and justice used by *Amnesty International*. They tackle big business these days as well as governments. Next up:

**23 Feb** 7.30pm Bellie – Colin Sharp's Amazon Experience [working as dentist on the Vine Trust ship]

**8 Mar** 2pm Speymouth – Judith McIntyre shares her interest in Photography

7.30pm Bellie – Watch this space – we had a call-off....We will get Donald Urquhart in the Autumn

**22 Mar** AGM

**Sunday 3 April Speymouth Village Hall – DAFFODIL TEA**

.....by which time we will have seen Easter come and go!

***Peace and blessings of Easter to you - From all in the Guild!***

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### 'A NOTE OF THANKS' & 'DON'T QUIT'

ANN RAFFAN

#### A NOTE OF THANKS

If we share, though we have little,  
Or we give a helping hand,  
If our eyes reflect our thoughts  
And show others we understand,  
If we show an extra kindness in the things we do and say,  
We'll have helped to give some happiness  
As we pass along life's way.

#### DON'T QUIT

When things go wrong as they sometimes will,  
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,  
When the funds are low and debts are high,  
And you want to smile, but have to sigh,  
When care is pressing you down a bit-  
Rest if you must, but do not quit.

Success is failure turned inside out,  
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,  
And you can never tell how close you are,  
It may be near when it seems so far,  
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit,  
It's when things go wrong that you must not quit.







### **Rag Bags**

The next collection for Rag Bags is on the 18<sup>th</sup> March so we can start collecting any time.

### **Stamps**

Our collection of Stamps are now away to help raise money towards the Church of Scotland HIV programme for this year. It supports partners both in Scotland and overseas to support those infected and affected by HIV. However this is just a reminder that we can collect the stamps throughout the year and would be grateful of your support. There is a plastic bag available at Speymouth and for Bellie there is a box at the back of the hall.

### **Traidcraft**

We are continuing with the Traidcraft sales table on display at the end of each month after the service at Bellie. With the new catalogues now out we have stocked up the table with a new range of lovely gifts. Please borrow the catalogue and have a browse through it as there are some lovely items available to purchase. We put an order away at the end of the month if you wish to order which will save you postage if you do it through the church. We are also hoping to get the sales table out and about more this year so if you are involved in any other group we can easily come along. Speak to any of the Eco Team.

### **Earth Hour**

Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup> March at 8.30pm is Earth hour. This year in order to raise awareness to issues about climate change we will have some posters as a reminder, so look out for these and join in on the 19<sup>th</sup>.



### **Meat Free Monday's** (or whenever you fancy).

The recipe this time is from Slimming World Veggie Deluxe. Serves 4 and is 'Free' (if you know about Slimming World)

Butternut Squash and chilli risotto; -

Low calorie cooking spray – 1 large onion finely chopped – 3 garlic cloves, crushed – 1 red chilli, deseeded and finely chopped (or 1/2 tsp chilli flakes, depends how hot you like) – 2 large fresh thyme sprigs – 1 large butternut squash, peeled, deseeded and cubed – 350g dried risotto rice, such as Arborio – 2 bay leaves – 1.4 litres boiling vegetable stock – chopped parsley to garnish

Spray a large non-stick saucepan with low calorie cooking spray and place over a medium heat.

Add the onion, garlic, chilli and thyme and cook for 2-3 minutes.

Add the squash, rice and bay leaves, turn the heat to high and stir for 30 seconds.

Add the hot stock a ladleful at a time, stirring occasionally until each ladleful has been absorbed before adding another. After about 25 – 30 minutes, all the stock will have been absorbed and the rice will be creamy but still have a little bite. Check that the squash is tender (add extra stock or boiling water if it is needed).

Stir in most of the parsley and heat through for 2-3 minutes.

Serve and garnish with more parsley.



This Lent, many of us will give up glasses of wine, coffee or chocolate, to mark the 40 days Jesus spent fasting in the desert.

The double-thirst quencher - WaterAid tackles thirst and the need for change. WaterAid is not just about clean water. It is also about sanitation, about changing society and about influencing government.

This Lent we will be supporting WaterAid's Jars of Change appeal to help transform lives around the world. We will be helping people such as Christine Mbabazi who lives with her four children in the Kawempe slum in Kampala, Uganda. Urban slums are densely populated as poor families move close to the cities in search of work. There are no toilets, so poor families like Christine's live in the midst of raw sewage. In 2004 Christine lost her son to cholera, from the contaminated water that floods the slum when it rains. She says, 'I can't forget my son, I always remember him and I feel the pain of losing him all the time.' Through our support of the Jars of Change appeal, we'll help create safe water points, toilet facilities, rainwater harvesting tanks and proper drainage.

Jesus tackles thirst and the need for change. Our world is a thirsty world in more ways than one. It is also a broken world that needs a radical change. The amazing thing is that God stepped into this world in Jesus Christ. Because of his love for the world, God became human to live alongside us in our brokenness and pain. Either side of Lent we have Christmas (the arrival) and Easter (the victory over death and resurrection). During Lent in Sunday Club we explore the temptation, pain and deprivation that Jesus went through on our behalf. After that experience Jesus "returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit" (Luke 4:14) Jesus came to bring 'water' to those who are thirsty for a relationship with God. He also came to bring forgiveness, healing and hope to those struggling to make sense of life without God. "Come to me," He says, as he will give you life-giving water. At the same time, He demonstrates the character of God's Kingdom by powerful acts of kindness and mercy. Let us tackle thirst and the need for change here and now: in 2016, let those who are followers of Jesus do what He did – bring water to the thirsty.

Together as a church we can transform lives, we can help bring water to the thirsty and that's why we're supporting WaterAid's Jars of Change appeal.

Bellie and Speymouth Sunday Club was able to send money to Water Aid in the autumn. This was due to many in the congregation who supported the Green Bucket Appeal and gave generously throughout the year and at our Harvest Thanksgiving.

To further support Water Aid, this Lent, Sunday Club will be supporting Water Aid's Jars of Change appeal to help transform lives around the world. To this end we are asking the congregation to help us again by giving up something for Lent and putting the small change you save in a jar and bringing your jar of change to church on Easter Sunday. After Lent we will be collecting the jars and sending what we have raised to help people around the world gain access to clean water and sanitation.

Our support will help children like Emeldah, age 10, from Zambia, who spends her days walking miles across hot and dusty plains to fetch filthy water. This water makes her sick and means she often misses school. But in a nearby village lives Ambi, who is also 10. Since WaterAid installed a borehole near her house, she's drunk clean water, attended school and no longer gets sick. With your help we can transform the lives of children like Emeldah, and many others by supporting Jars of Change this Lent. Last year churches like ours helped bring safe, clean water to the neighbouring village of Habanji. Children are no longer sick, and girls can go to school instead of collecting water. This is the same wonderful change we can help to bring to Emeldah's village.



## **A LOVING HUSBAND AND WIFE SUBMITTED BY GRACE HENDRY**

A man and his ever-nagging wife went on vacation in Jerusalem. While they were there, the wife passed away. The undertaker told the husband, "You can have her buried here in the Holy Land for \$150 or we can have her shipped back home for \$5,000. The husband thought about it and told the undertaker he would have her shipped back home. The undertaker asked him, "why would you spend \$5,000 to have her shipped home when you could have a beautiful burial here, and it would only cost \$150?????" The husband replied, "Long ago, a man died here, was buried here, and three days later, rose from the dead. I just can't take that chance!"



**Have an April Outing –  
Visit Speymouth Hall, Mosstodloch  
and enjoy the annual**



## **Daffodil Tea**



hosted by Bellie & Speymouth Church of  
Scotland Guild

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April from 2pm -  
3.30pm**

**Entry Only £2 for Lovely Cream Tea!**

Cake Stall and raffle.

Funds to Guild and Church Projects

## **BELLIE AND SPEYMOOUTH WORSHIP TEAM LIZ RENNIE**

The Worship Team met on Monday 1st February when Team members had an opportunity to reflect on Christmas Worship Activities. Everyone agreed that being part of Bellie Babes Christmas Party Celebration on 12 December had been very successful and a wonderful experience for all who attended. Well done to Annette and her team for their careful planning and preparation. Work on refreshing the Christmas Carol Booklet was successfully completed in time for using at the many Christmas Services across the Parish and the Worship Team are grateful for the assistance received from Clare Lambourne and Rev Eric Nicholson in ensuring printing and production went to plan!

Our thoughts turned to the year ahead and plans for Worship at Milnescroft were agreed. Services during 2016 will be as follows:

Sunday 7 February	6.00pm	Communion
Sunday 24 April	6.00pm	Communion
Sunday 5 June	6.00pm	Normal Worship
Sunday 4 September	6.00pm	Communion
Sunday 6 November	6.00pm	Communion
Sunday 4 December	6.00pm	Christmas Worship with Take Note

These services are open to all residents of Milnescroft. Any members of the congregation who may prefer a shorter, seated service are invited to attend. There is always a welcome cup of tea at the end too.

Rehearsals for The Praise Group have restarted. Mrs Park will welcome new members who may wish to come along and enjoy singing as part of a choir. The group have a busy few weeks ahead with visits to Nairn Old Parish Church on 21 February. The group will sing at Moray Music Festival during the week of 14 March and will contribute to worship on Palm Sunday and Easter Day.

The Worship Team have a number of pieces of work underway including producing an Information Leaflet (in line with the other Church Teams) to give information about the purpose and work of the Team. The Way Forward Consultation is still in our thoughts. On Good Friday, we will be supporting Bellie Babes Easter Celebration.



## TAKE NOTE

DENISE AND NEIL BROWN

PHOTOS BY ANNE MURRAY



December was a busy time for Take Note, which began with singing on Bellie Church steps for the switching on of the village Christmas lights. Then we conducted the Milnescroft carol service to a packed lounge – there was standing room only! Thanks to all the Take Note members and parents for bringing them along and thank you to Milnescroft residents for the refreshments.



Our Christmas concert “Christmas around the World” was well attended and raised £230 for the childrens ward at Dr. Gray’s hospital. Fiona handed over the money to them and they were able to buy new toys for the ward.



A small group from Take Note went to Weston House Care Home in Keith on the Saturday before Christmas to sing to them at their Christmas party. They enjoyed seeing the children singing and dancing with some of their songs from the Christmas concert.

After a well deserved break we started back in January with our disco/party. Thanks to Craig Lambourne for giving us an evening off when we could join in the fun!



The first Friday in February we enjoyed pancakes as our topic for the evening was Lent. Fiona is taking the lead with a craft evening later on in the month.

At Christmas we said farewell to Rachel Stoker, one of our teenage helpers, as she has finished this part of her Duke of Edinburgh award and is studying hard in her final year at school. Many thanks for all your hard work and help over the past few years.

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## BREW AND BLETHER

GRACE HENDRY

We continue to meet in Speymouth Church hall on the first Friday of each month from 2pm till 3.30pm.

I am always grateful to the team of Stanley, Jenny and Dorothy who help me.

A warm welcome is always guaranteed as well as usually some home baking.

Look forward to seeing you!





## YOUNG CHURCH

MARGARET MCINNES

We are delighted to share the good news that our members in Young Church continue to increase. At the Christmas Family service on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>. December, thirty-two youngsters eagerly arrived to change into their Nativity costumes! Our youngsters were very happy to share the meaning of Advent with the Congregation and sang their songs with great enthusiasm. Appreciation goes to our teenage members of Sunday Club for their splendid narrating skills in addition to their continuing support and fellowship on a weekly basis. Grateful thanks go to everyone behind the scenes who contributed to this very special Family Service.



In the blink of an eye, the children's costumes changed and everyone was ready for the Family Christmas party. After enjoying lots of yummy festive eats, Craig (our D.J.) had us all in party mood in no time! His great selection of music (and friendly banter!) had everyone dancing and participating in Christmas games. Great fun was had by young and not so young!





## YOUNG CHURCH

## CONTINUED



Santa even heard the happy sounds coming from our hall and joined us for a welcome sit down. After listening to his favourite rendition of Jingle Bells, he handed out presents to one and all. Our youngsters were absolutely delighted with their gift of a knitted snowman (in a mug!) to hang on their Christmas tree. Special thanks to the knitting ladies for helping Santa and his elves!



We started 2016 with the Season of Epiphany using Luke's Gospel from our Spill the Beans material supported by The Barnabas Children's Bible. The children have been discovering how different people saw and learned about Jesus in different ways. Lots of discussion and various activities have supported this learning allowing the children opportunities to develop and further their understanding.

Our focus now turns to the Season of Lent. Please look out in Bellie church hall for the pebbles and stones the children will be using during their Lenten journey. Each week a stone or pebbles will link in to the bible stories we study and will culminate in symbolising the stone rolling away from the tomb on Easter Sunday and the Good News of our risen saviour being shared around the world we live in today.

During Lent, Sunday Club will be supporting Water Aid's Jars of Change and we pray that many in the congregation will be able to help us with this project.



We have managed to find the time to enjoy some homemade pancakes too!



## SPEYMOOUTH FLOWERS ROTA GRACE HENDRY

We are very grateful to Jenny Reid and Dorothy McAuslan who have taken over this duty from Helen Morrison.

We thank Helen for her efficient organising of this job while in office.

Please contact Jenny (820784) or Dorothy (820068) should you wish to donate flowers or cash to buy flowers to grace the church on a Sunday morning. These flowers are given to housebound or bereaved.

Do advise your elder should you be aware of anyone requiring a gift of flowers.







**BY ISABEL MACLEOD    PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY**

The first Messy Church of the new year took place in Bellie Church Hall from 4pm–6pm on 30th January 2016 and was very well attended with the children learning about Jesus through crafts, activities, stories, music and song, on the theme of “being wise”.



The story told us about when Jesus went on holiday to Jerusalem with his mum and dad to celebrate the Passover. After the celebrations he couldn't be found and Mary and Joseph had an anxious time until he was eventually discovered in the Temple where he was speaking with the wise men and priests. As usual we had themed songs and everyone was able to join in with the making of bags, biscuits or even in making a cardboard temple. There were lively songs and some games as well as party food and all went away having learned something about Jesus and having had fun and fellowship with friends in an informal and participative setting. The next Messy Church is to be on Saturday 19th March from 4-6 pm and, since it is the day before Palm Sunday, it will have an Easter theme. Sounds like it could be an EGGceptionally chocolatey afternoon!





## **WE ARE SURVIVORS (FOR THOSE BORN BEFORE 1940...) SUBMITTED BY PETER CROMAR**

We were born before television, before penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, videos and the pill. We were born before radar, credit cards, split atoms, laser beams and ball point pens, before dishwashers, tumble dryers, electric blankets, air conditioners, drip dry clothes...and before man walked on the moon.

We got married first and then lived together (how quaint can you be?). We thought 'fast food' was what you ate in Lent, a 'Big Mac' was an oversized raincoat and a 'crumpet' we had for tea. We exist before house-husbands, computer dating, and 'sheltered accommodation' was where you waited for a bus.

We were before day care centres, group homes and disposable nappies. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, artificial hearts, word processors, or young men wearing earrings. For us 'time sharing' meant togetherness, a 'chip' was a piece of wood or fried potato, 'hardware' meant nuts and bolts and 'software' wasn't a word.

Before 1940 'Made in Japan' meant junk, the term 'making out' referred to how you did your exams, 'stud' was something that fastened a collar to a shirt and 'going all the way' meant staying on a double-decker bus to the terminus.

In our day, cigarette smoking was 'fashionable', 'grass' was mown, 'coke' was kept in the coalhouse, a 'joint' was a piece of meat you ate on Sundays and 'pot' was something you cooked in. 'Rock music' was a fond mother's lullaby, 'Eldorado' was an ice cream, a 'gay person' was the life and soul of the party, while 'aids' just meant beauty treatment or help for someone in trouble.

We who were born before 1940 must be a hardy bunch when you think of the way in which the world has changed and the adjustments we have had to make.

No wonder there is a generation gap today ..... BUT..... **By the grace of God ... we have survived!**

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### **RECIPE FOR A HAPPY MARRIAGE**

**SUBMITTED BY PETER CROMAR**

#### **A GOOD WEDDING CAKE.**

**Put the love, good looks and sweet temper into a well furnished house.**

**1lb butter of youth.**

**4lbs of love.**

**1lb of good looks,**

**1lb of sweet temper.**

**3lb of self forgetfulness.**

**1lb of pounded wit.**

**1lb of blindness of faults.**

**1lb of good humour.**

**1 tablespoon of sweet argument.**

**1 pint of rippling laughter.**

**1 wine glass of common sense.**

**1oz of modesty.**

**Beat the butter of youth to a cream, and mix well together with the blindness of faults.**

**Stir the pounded wit and good humour into the sweet argument, then add the rippling laughter and common sense.**

**Work the whole together until everything is well mixed, and bake gently for ever.**

*Found in a church booklet of recipes at the turn of the century.*

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## **BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, FUNERALS**

### **Funerals**

Mrs Janet Meighan, Nether Dallachy - 16th December 2015

Mrs Nettie Flett, Fochabers - 25th December 2015

Mrs Heather Kane, Mosstodloch - 2nd January 2016

Miss Dorothy Robertson, Fochabers - 6th January 2016

Mr William Cruikshank, Fochabers - 8th January 2016

### **Baptism**

Louisa Rachel Smith,  
daughter of Helen and Bill Smith,  
Lower Auchenreath Farm,  
at Bellie Parish Church,  
On 20th December 2015



## **REMEMBER TO PUT THE GLASS DOWN** SUBMITTED BY LISA CAMPBELL

A psychologist walked around a room while teaching stress management to an audience. As she raised a glass of water, everyone expected they'd be asked the "half empty or half full" question. Instead, with a smile on her face, she inquired: "How heavy is this glass of water?" Answers called out ranged from 8 oz. to 20 oz. She replied, "The absolute weight doesn't matter. It depends on how long I hold it. If I hold it for a minute, it's not a problem. If I hold it for an hour, I'll have an ache in my arm. If I hold it for a day, my arm will feel numb and paralysed. In each case, the weight of the glass doesn't change, but the longer I hold it, the heavier it becomes."

She continued, "The stresses and worries in life are like that glass of water. Think about them for a while and nothing happens. Think about them a bit longer and they begin to hurt. And if you think about them all day long, you will feel paralysed – incapable of doing anything."

It's important to remember to let go of your stresses. We should all remember to put the glass down!

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## **CHURCH AND SOCIETY COUNCIL** JOHN MCCONNACHIE

### **BIG DATA**

Some years ago, the Church and Society Council submitted a report to the General Assembly on 'privacy' and how large organisations were gathering information about individuals and how this information is used. Store cards are probably the most common examples of this. The collection of data does however go far beyond this. Most of us who use personal computers will know how quickly information is passed around between companies and organisations – make an enquiry on one web site and within minutes, other websites are offering similar products. It is estimated that the amount of data collected and stored worldwide, doubles every 40 months.

Currently a working group is investigating how some data is used to target certain sections of our communities. Some people are comfortable with governmental and other organisations collecting data about individuals often behind the screen of National Security. But this leads to two significant questions ie what happens to all this information if our government becomes more extreme and what happens when the information is passed on to foreign governments or other agencies? Governments now use outside agencies and companies to fulfil tasks and responsibilities previously done by governmental organisations, eg many prisons are now run by private companies. Just using prisons as an example, the private company running a prison requires data on those who are incarcerated. In addition they require information on persons visiting inmates or dealing with the inmates on other matters. This means they now have data on such people within their data banks. These companies are involved in other activities perhaps not connected with prisons and can use the data they hold to facilitate these activities. There are other examples eg medical data held by

NHS being passed to drug manufacturing companies to facilitate medical research. Although this information initially may be for a specific condition, once the data is held by the drug company, it can be used for other purposes.

Collecting data is easy. There are web-site and Apps for mobile phones which can locate the position of a mobile phone to within 15metres. Some parents use these to find out where their children have gone but it is clear that with little additional sophistication, organisations can trace the movement of anyone with a mobile phone. If when reading this article you have your mobile phone nearby, someone can probably trace where you are reading it.

This then leads to the issue of Big Data which is where the amount of data available is so big that several servers are needed to deal with it. Large organisations can obtain and use this data in all manner of ways and manipulate this information to their own advantage. One use of this information is in profiling individuals and groups. We are made in the image of God but are now profiled to suit someone else's view of how they think we should appear.

There is little we can do about this other than be aware that this is all happening. A person may think they are not part of this because they don't have or use a computer but 'No'. Every time you use an electronic device, credit or debit card, or even when you give someone your details and they enter it on to a computer this information enters the 'datasphere'. The Data Protection Act gives some protection to individuals but only in the UK. Even with legal safeguards, computer systems can be hacked by foreign governments, organisations, even individuals.



## GETTING TO KNOW.....YOU!



### ALISON McDONALD

**I have been at Bellie/Speymouth since.....1990.**

**I came to Bellie/Speymouth because.....**I started to work at Baxters as a Senior Food Technologist. When I was young I lived on a farm in Caithness and went to Watten church and Sunday School and as a student went to Holburn Central in Aberdeen.

**One thing I enjoy about Bellie/Speymouth is.....**how friendly and welcoming our congregation are.... One big happy family x

**I find a lot of joy in.....**tasty food and spending time with friends and family.

**If I won the lottery I would.....**build a big house in the country and share my fortune with friends and family.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island, my luxury item would be.....**a pot of tea! I am easily pleased ....simple things are best.

**I would love to travel to.....**the Carribean again, where Ainslie and I went on honeymoon nearly 24 years ago .... Who knows, maybe for our silver wedding we will return if we are blessed with the health and well being to go.

**The title of a book about me would be....**“Cheery Chatterbox”. I love to chat to people and I just want everyone to be happy- smile and the whole world smiles with you.

**If I could go back in time, I would travel to.....**1990 - the Summer I met Ainslie, and my Grandparents in Caithness were still alive. I was so happy and excited introducing them .....I just knew he was the one!

**Once upon a time I.....**dreamed as a little girl that I would marry a rich farmer and have lots of children. I also dreamt of being like Delia Smith and cooking on tv! My Nana was one of my very best friends and she taught me from a very young age the most important things to have in life is your health and happiness and if you can learn to be content with what you are given that is a great gift. She also taught me never to forget those that are good to you! These are values I hold dear and am very fortunate to say I am lucky to have met and married a handsome man who looks like a farmer - he often wears checked shirts and has nice rosy cheeks! We have 3 great children who we are very proud of Callum, now 20 who is in his 3rd yr at University in Edinburgh studying Economics with Management, Kirsty, 18, who is in her final year at Milne’s High School and hoping to follow her big brother to University and study Business, and Hannah, 16, who is in Year 5 at Milne’s High School. I am doing a job I love at ‘Baxters’ creating new recipes, travelling, selling new products to customers and sometimes doing cookery demos! I am very happy, content, grateful and looking forward to living happily ever after with my family.

### ANN BOWIE

**I have been at Bellie since.....**1974 when along with Jim and our three sons we came to live in Nether Dallachy.

**I came to Bellie because.....**it was our local Church and the natural place to worship as a family.

**One thing I enjoy about Bellie is.....**the friendship and fellowship and the support offered when things get tough.

**I find a lot of joy in.....**my grandchildren and seeing the youngsters on a Sunday morning participating in worship.

**If I won the lottery I would.....**ensure that my family were comfortable. The remainder I would divide between worthwhile charities, Guild Projects, Bellie and Speymouth Fabric Fund and the Salvation Army.

**I would love to travel to.....**Arran, as it would bring back happy memories of holidays spent with family and friends.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island, my luxury item would be.....**my Golf Clubs!

**The title of a book about me would be....**“How many Jackets?”

**If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be.....**a miracle! I was never any good at art.

**If I could go back in time, I would travel to.....**2007, when I attended the Livingstonia Synodical Women's Guild Conference in Malawi with Janet Whyte. The sight of the Guildswomen in their Black and White uniforms, many with a baby strapped to their back, singing and praising God is something I will never forget.

**Once upon a time I.....**was a Sunday School teacher and there was a little girl called Clare in my class, she is now an Elder, editor of the Kirk News, wife of Craig and mum to 4 delightful little boys.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Spring Sale, Bellie Church Hall, 10am—12 noon
Sat 19 <sup>th</sup> March	Messy Church, Bellie Church Hall, 4pm—6pm
Sun 20 <sup>th</sup> March	10am Bellie; United Service followed by Stated Annual Meeting
Thu 24 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm St Andrew's Lhanbryd— Maundy Thursday worship and Holy Communion
Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> March	7pm Bellie Church; Good Friday worship
Sun 27 <sup>th</sup> March	7am—Speymouth Church; Easter Service worship and Holy Communion (Weather permitting, this service will be held in Speymouth Church garden)  11am, Bellie Church; Easter united worship
Sat 3rd April	Daffodil Tea, Speymouth Hall, Mosstodloch, 2pm—3.30pm

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## LET US BUILD A HOUSE...FOR NEPAL

Following the earthquake in Nepal in April 2015 and being moved by the first-hand account of Rev Ram Kumar Budhathoki at the General Assembly, the World Mission Council issued a challenge to presbyteries to support a 3 year initiative for the long term rebuilding of this mountain kingdom.

Under the convenorship of **Rev Jenny Adams**, Moray's Mission & Service Committee is asking Moray's congregations to raise at least £500 to help construct a robust house for people made homeless in the Dhading area of Nepal. For more information, check out [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk) and local noticeboards.

Along with every other congregation, Bellie & Speymouth have been given **“Buy a Brick” sheets**, encouraging members to contribute £1 to fill in a brick on the sheet (cross it off/ initial/sign it / get a child to colour it in for you - whatever you prefer).

There will be several sheets to allow for different locations or different people and we realise that not every sheet will be completed – but every brick helps.

There are dinky little collection boxes which can be made up or the money given to designated people to be passed on to Moray Presbytery Treasurer who will forward Moray's contribution to the World Mission Council.

**On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm, a celebration gathering will be held at Bellie Kirk with a Songs of Praise and stories from Nepal**, to give thanks together for what we have managed to raise. This is a Moray Presbytery 'Big Sing' event to which absolutely everybody is welcome! For more information, contact [JAdams@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:JAdams@churchofscotland.org.uk).





# A CHURCH CELEBRATION ON THE 10TH BIRTHDAY OF COFFEE & CHAT

BY JENNIE CAMERON, PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY

On Monday 1st February, Coffee and Chat celebrated their 10th birthday. On speaking to the group, I recalled being invited to attend a meeting in the Manse at the end of 2005 to discuss a project to raise funds for the Re-Order.

The Rev Alison made the suggestion of a morning group in the Church Hall when people could meet, enjoy a cup of Tea or Coffee, biscuits and a social chat. It was agreed that as the Quaich was closed on Mondays, that would be the preferred morning. In March 2012 the objective was changed by the Congregational Board towards raising of funds for the Church Tower Project.



Now, 10 years later, a total of £31.275 has been raised. Before cutting the cake, I gave sincere thanks to the loyal supporters who have come along week by week, to the volunteer team, past and present, who make up the Rota to serve the teas and coffees, and to all those who clear up at the end.

It appears to be generally agreed that in several respects, financial, social and in creating a good start to the week for the group, Coffee and Chat has been a most successful venture for the Church.



## AMUSING GRAVESTONES IN MEXICO

SUBMITTED BY GRACE HENDRY



**GUSTAVA  
GUMERSINDA  
GUTIERREZ  
GUZMAN**

1934-1989

Rest in peace

A memory from all  
your sons( except  
Ricardo who did not  
pay any money)



Here rests  
**PANCRAZIO  
JUVENALES**  
1968-1993

He was a good  
husband, a wonderful  
father, but a bad  
electrician



Here is resting my  
dearest wife,  
**BRUNJILDA  
JALAMONTE**

1973-1997

Lord, please  
welcome

her with the same  
joy I send her to you.



**TOMAS  
JIMOTEO  
CHINCHILLA**

1967-1989

Rest in peace,

Now you are in Lord's arms.

Lord, watch your wallet

# BELLIE AND SPEYMOUTH SPRING SALE

Bellie Church Hall  
Sat 5th March 2016  
10am – 12noon

Come along for tea, coffee, hot cross buns! All of the usual stalls, including an Easter Chocolate Stall, Easter Crafts, Cake & Candy, bottle stall, mystery parcels, guess the weight of the simnel cake. Face painting for the children and meet the Easter bunny! New this year: Easter bonnet competition for children and young at heart!

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**Articles for the summer issue should be with the Editor by 15th May 2016 at the latest.**

Scottish Charity Number  
SCO05310

# HOLIDAY CLUB

Running from Monday 8th August—Friday 12th August 2016

## HELPERS NEEDED!

Volunteers and helpers are needed during the holiday club week. Help and assistance is also required for the planning and preparation in the months prior to the holiday club. If you can support with this then please let us know or get further information from Denise Brown or Ann Bowie.



*with fun, food and fellowship for the whole family.*

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

*In* **Bellie Church Hall**

*From* **4pm – 6pm**

**CRAFTS, ACTIVITIES, STORIES, MUSIC & SONG**

*Followed by a family meal*

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

## PRAISE GROUP

If you enjoying singing, please feel free to come along and join the Praise Group which meets regularly on a Monday evening in Bellie Church Hall from 7.00pm – 8.00pm. It is not necessary to be able to read music. You will be made most welcome! Contact M. Park for more information.

## AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADVERTISING

Would you like to see your business advertised in the 'Kirk News' which is printed and distributed to over 350 families in the local area, in addition to being issued via email to many more individuals both near and far? It is also available for all to see online via the Church website as well as through the Church facebook page.

An advert will cost £25 per quarter, with discount being available for advertisers who book for a full year. Please contact the Editor for more detailed information on the terms and conditions.

