

September 2016

# KIRK NEWS

Greetings from your Locum



I was speaking to someone the other day who had stayed up until 3.00 a.m. to watch Andy Murray retain his Olympic gold medal in the men's singles. I have to confess that I'm not that much of a sports fan but I have watched it on the news and have seen some of the swimming and the gymnastics, as well as the first set of Andy Murray's match in the final. Although I then went to bed and heard the news of his victory in the morning.

St. Paul often used the metaphor of an athlete competing in competition to describe the Christian life. In the letter to the Philippians he wrote, 'But this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead. I press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ.' (Philippians 3: 13 -14).

'Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead.' Paul had many ups and downs in his mission. Sometimes he was well received and people heard his message and the Church took root and grew. At other times it was a struggle either because people didn't want to hear his Gospel, or because they were hostile to it, or because the young Church was split by factions and argument. As I'm sure you know most of Paul's letters were written to deal with just such problems. But the point is that Paul put the past behind him, 'straining forward to what lies ahead'.

The older I get the more I seem to prefer the past. It may be rose tinted spectacles but to my memory so many things were better then than now. But, to use another athletic metaphor, although it might be more comfortable to rest on our laurels Paul reminds me that as a Christian the past is behind and I need to look to the future. That there needs to be a willingness for us all as Christians to strain forward to what lies ahead. To 'press on towards the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Jesus Christ.' Which isn't just about getting to heaven one day but about living the Christian life and finding new ways to share the Gospel message here and now. It is about pressing forward as Christ's Church



into the future to which he calls us. Which isn't always easy or comfortable but the fact is that it seems God always calls his people to discover new things and to learn new ways of being the Church and Jesus' disciples in the world. God grant that, like Paul, we may press on to the future until one day we receive the prize that God has for us all in Jesus Christ.

God bless,  
*Morris*



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Holiday Club .....	2
Take Note.....	4
Baptisms, weddings, funerals .5	
Messy Church.....	5
Scottish Country Dancing .....	5
Eco News.....	6
Celtic Kirk Service—Speyfest ..	7
The 3 Amigos go skydiving! ....	8
Eco Team quiz answers.....	8
Bellie and Speymouth Guild ...	9
Finance Team Update .....	10
Key dates for the year ahead ...	11
Jokes from Holiday Club .....	12
Getting to know you .....	12
Bellie Babes .....	13
Young Church Spey Bay fun....	13
Bellie Clock Tower restoration	14
Fochabers Lunch Club .....	14
Centenary Celebration .....	14
Moderator Musing's.....	15
Sunday Club 2016/2017 .....	16
Out in Africa .....	16



# GUARDIANS OF ANCORA HOLIDAY CLUB 2016

DENISE BROWN

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANNE MURRAY

What a busy week we had with 49 children attending the club each day. It was a quick week, but everyone had a brilliant time, and we were even blessed with the sun for part of the week and were able to play games in the garden.

Every morning at holiday club we had to find the treasure to unlock the bible stories and make our Spire of Light shine brighter each day. Our first hunt led us to find nets and fish to unlock the story of Jesus calling the fishermen. There was a good catch of fish as Jean Scott had given us 40 knitted fish, which were much admired by everyone. We then watched the bible story in cartoon style on the TV each day. Afterwards each group made a net collage for their board in the hall. We also learnt a new song "I have decided to follow Jesus" which became the favourite song of the week!

Tuesday's hunt was to find pairs of shoes, leading us to a pair of sandals which was the clue to unlock the story of Jesus and the Roman Officer. The children had great fun making their own sandals and we even had a parade to show them off!



I think Wednesday was my favourite day of the week, as I got the chance to put chocolate pie all over Fabula! Then the Guildmaster came with a big parcel which we had to unwrap and find the treasure, so we played musical parcel. Great fun! Inside was a mat – which was the treasure to unlock the story of the man who came through the roof to see Jesus. The older children really enjoyed sewing their own mat, while the younger ones made a woven mat.



Denise and Ann dressed up each day and were re-named Talula and Fabula for the week! Poor Fabula felt a bit tired on Thursday and told the children she had overslept and had brought her breakfast with her. One of the children thought she was still wearing her pyjamas! Our treasure hunt was to find 7 shopping bags! One bag led us to the clue – 2 tins of tuna and 5 bread rolls. This unlocked the story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 people. We had planned a picnic snack in the garden, but because it was so wet, we had our picnic in the church sat on the parachute! We made a big picture of the feeding of the 5,000 using stamps, which is on show in the Hall. The younger children enjoyed making loaves and fishes from salt dough.

Our teenage helpers did a short drama at the end of the morning which the children all looked forward to. They even involved one or two of the older children from the club for one or two of the episodes.



On Friday morning Bellie Babes held their holiday club session which was very well attended. We tried something new this year, having an afternoon session, followed by a BBQ for all the family. The children were split into groups of mixed ages which worked very well. We had four stations for them to explore. There was a story corner with Colin Hanover dressed up telling a bible story of the woman who was healed when she touched Jesus.

Avril Clark led a craft activity where we all drew around our hands and placed them on a large rainbow.

Isabel McLeod was in charge of an App corner (keeping up with technology) and the children were shown how to use the Guardians of Ancora App on their tablet or kindle. This can be downloaded at home and they can continue exploring the bible stories.







This proved very popular with many of the children. Fabula and Talula led a game to see which team could complete the bible memory verse the fastest. Great fun and it was good to see so many of the children repeating the memory verse off by heart.

For the first time ever, we held our family BBQ in the church as the rain came on just as the food was ready! A quick change of plan and everyone enjoyed the evening. There was a great family atmosphere, with 38 families attending, including brothers and sisters, grandparents and even great-grandparents! The children enjoyed singing their new songs at the end of the evening.

It was lovely to see so many Holiday Club children and their families joining us for the Holiday Club Service on the Sunday morning. The service was led by the Holiday Club Team with the older children also taking part. It was a very inter-active service, the children showing the congregation their decorated bags and their crafts which they have made during the week. They were also presented with their certificates following participation in the holiday club week.

Holiday club doesn't just happen every year. It takes a lot of planning and a large team of helpers. One person can't do everything and I think we've demonstrated this as a holiday club team this year. We've all got different talents and can help in different ways to make up a team that works together. I've enjoyed the fun and fellowship and would like to say a big thank you to everyone who has helped or supported us in any way.



I know this was my first Holiday Club, but thought it was brilliant! The Primary 1's were so good and seemed to really enjoy the mixture of crafts and games. They also loved Talula and Fabula, especially the chocolate pie episode! Thanks for the fun. Joan K.

To Holiday Club helpers—thanks for everything—Gemma P7 & Zoe P3

The Friday afternoon plans worked well as it was something a little different and meant a mix up of age groups. The BBQ idea was successful and much better eating in the church. Lisa.

Thank you for the best time in our last year. Hope to be helpers next year— Jorja & Kathryn P7

The Drama sessions were super and great to see our teenagers working as family units – not only with the acting skills, but also scenery. Alison P.

The bible stories on the TV were very good and the children responded well to them. A great favourite was the Treasure Chest for pictures and jokes. Fiona

We asked the children what they had enjoyed most at Holiday Club. Some said "crafts", some "the drama", but a lot of them said "everything!" Denise



## TAKE NOTE

DENISE AND NEIL BROWN

PHOTOS BY ANNE MURRAY

On Thursday 19th May we had our annual trip to Greyfriars Club in Elgin. Again this was much appreciated by the club members and we had a lot of them join in the actions and dancing with some of our songs. I also think that this year we had the most Take Note members there ever!

The Concert in aid of Syrian Refugees in Bellie Church was an excellent evening of music even though it did run for 2 hours and it was nice to see some of our Take Note members doing other things during it.

On Sunday 12th June we sang at Milnes Primary School Fete. At least it was dry, although a little bit windy, making singing outdoors just a bit challenging, but we think everyone enjoyed hearing us.

Well what an evening the 17th June turned out to be. A party for Take Note 20 years in its current format!! Fiona and Debbie had organised the games and food with all the previous Take Note leaders and helpers being invited.

From left to right: Back Row: Benedict Stewart, Rachel Christie, Christopher Campbell, Aileen McDonald, Fiona Robertson, Ann Bowie, Lynne Lowndes, Jeff Lowndes, Joyce Dawson, Rachel Stoker, Heather McLaughlin, Neil Brown, Molly Atherton.



Front Row: Emma Campbell, Ailsa Black, Rosie Robertson, Fiona Low, Denise Brown, Debbie Smith. Don't forget our resident photographer- Anne Murray! (Never in the pictures!!)

We would also like to say a big thank you to all the leaders/helpers that have been with us over the years: Louise Black, Isla Wheelan, Rhona Black, Hayley Smith, Allyson Sinecki, Alice Urquhart, Annette Reed, Lyndsey McDonald, Tina Weatherby, Linda Pride.

We all had a fun night and it was good to catch up with everyone. Presentations were made to Jeff Lowndes, Lynne Lowndes and Ann Bowie for starting Take Note and Neil and Denise Brown for keeping it running. There were new words put to music to show how much the children enjoy Take Note, it was then sung by Take Note with Lizzie Sharp playing the keyboard.

How they managed to keep so many secrets from us we'll never know.

(Continued over)



We ended the term with a Family Fun Night on Friday 24th June. The day was lovely and warm and we thought it would be great to get out in the sunshine for the evening. Then at 4 o'clock it rained!! Despite that we still managed to have all our games outside. We ended up with a water game as usual and I suppose it was inevitable that Denise and Neil should be well and truly drenched!! This was followed by a BBQ and Ice-cream. Many thanks to all the adults who came along, some of whom were very competitive in the games!!

We now look forward to the next term and some new faces, as everyone moves up a year and there is a new Primary 2 intake. In September we have a special treat organised for our Take Note members.

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## BAPTISMS, WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Jesus said, 'I am the resurrection and the life. If someone has faith in me, even though they die, they shall come to life.' St. John 11: 25.

We remember those who have died.

15th June Pamela May Thomson Fochabers

16th June Helen Gray Fochabers

1st July (funeral) Grisella (Grace) Sim Mosstodloch

2nd July Jacquie Owsnett Fochabers

12th July Brigitte Hill Garmouth

6th August William Gordon Fochabers

14th August Margaret Riddell Fochabers

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.' St. Matthew 19: 14.

We welcome into the Church:

24th August Isla Rae Florence Mellor daughter of Simon and Sarah Mellor



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## MESSY CHURCH ISABEL MACLEOD

The next MESSY CHURCH will take place on Saturday 24th September from 4-6pm.



This is a way for all the family to be involved in interactive worship and we are looking forward to welcoming back old faces as well as meeting new ones.

All are welcome.

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## SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING CATHERINE FETTES

The Scottish Country Dancing Class resumes weekly on Wednesday 21st September at 7.30 pm and anyone is welcome to come along and give it a try.

During the summer months we have met monthly in Spey Bay Hall for Social Country Dancing. These evenings have been well attended with people joining us from neighbouring classes and from the Aberdeen and Inverness areas and even one lady from Austria who attends a class in Salzburg.

Good fellowship is enjoyed on these evenings.



## Rag Bags

The next collection is going to be 28th October. We will start collecting bags from mid-September onwards. Thank you for your continued support.

## Eco Network Meeting

Held in Bellie on the 14th September. It is planned to have a Moray gathering next year so if you would be interested in helping out speak to Ann Raffan or Avril Clark. We are hoping to make a success of the gathering so the more people involved the better.

## Meat Free Monday (or any other day)

We are still trying to encourage everyone to have a meat free day once a week at least, which in turn will have benefits for the environment. This time we have a recipe submitted from Margaret Thompson.

Bean Burgers (makes 6 large burgers)

### Ingredients:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| * 2 tablespoons olive oil                 | * 250g mushrooms, finely chopped               |
| * 1 large clove garlic, finely chopped    | * 300g cooked black eye beans (can be tinned)  |
| * 300g cooked pinto beans (can be tinned) | * 2 tablespoons dark soy sauce                 |
| * 1 tablespoon parsley, chopped           | * 1 tablespoon fresh coriander, finely chopped |
| * salt and freshly ground pepper          |  |

Method: 1. Heat oil in frying pan and fry the mushrooms and garlic over a high heat and lower the heat as they start to brown.

2. Into a large bowl, put all the rinsed and drained beans, soy sauce, coriander and parsley. Use a hand blender to mash everything together but don't completely turn it to mush as you want a bit of texture.

3. Add the mushrooms and combine, adding salt and pepper as needed.

4. Divide the mixture into 6 and form each portion into a flat round patty about 1cm thick.

5. Heat a little oil in a frying pan over a medium heat and fry the burgers for about 3 minutes on each side. Be gentle as you turn them over.

6. Delicious served with chutney and green salad.

## Recycling Quiz from the Northern Scot.

- 1). Can paper be recycled for ever?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No
- 2). Does recycled paper need new fibres?    ☐ Yes    ☐ No
- 3). How much recovered paper do newspapers contain?    ☐ 100%    ☐ 49%    ☐ 78.5%
- 4). How is the raw material in your newspaper sourced?    ☐ economically    ☐ responsibly
- 5). What should you do with your newspapers?    ☐ burn them    ☐ recycle them

Answers can be found on page 8.



## Recycling

Lately there has been some discussion about take away coffee cups not being recyclable. So I have put together some extracts of the facts from an article in the Guardian 16th March 2016, for you to consider the next time you have a take away coffee.

“Less than 1% of takeaway coffee cups get recycled. It takes a specialist company, because the plastic used to laminate the cups has to be removed before the paper is pulped. A bit like the fruit juice cartons that, as any eager recycler will know, are not to be confused with cardboard and are processed alongside paper cups in Stainland, West Yorkshire, at the UK’s only carton recycling plant.

Giant retailers such Costa and Starbucks have a responsibility, as Starbucks recognised when it launched a scheme giving customers a 25p discount for bringing their own cup. But reusable cups made of silicone and rubber have not really caught on, probably because they need washing up. Cups are not reusable in the same way as plastic bags, and if this means we are stuck with paper-plastic hybrids, retailers should contribute to the cost of getting rid of them in an environmentally responsible way, either through higher taxes or by helping local authorities design workable cup recycling schemes.

But the bigger point is the same as with greenhouse gases, and everything else that pertains to the environment. Our planet’s resources are finite. Just as we are filling up the air with carbon dioxide, so we are filling up giant holes in the ground with rubbish. We have learned that takeaway coffee cups are taking up too much space in these smelly pits. Next time you buy a coffee, think about it.”

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### CELTIC KIRK SERVICE—SPEYFEST 2016 ISABEL MACLEOD



The Celtic Kirk service was aimed at a younger audience this year. The local clergy – Father Tad Turski and Rev Morris Smith - along with representatives from each of the local churches, organised items such as prayers led by young people, a puppet show to tell the story for children, activities for younger children, items from the Irish students and music from the Fochabers Fiddlers and Bellie Worship Band as well as traditional readings and a reflection. The theme was “The Good Samaritan”.

The service seemed to go well with many smiling faces on the way out of the tent.

Many thanks go to all who were involved in any way in making the service a success.



## THE 3 AMIGOS GO SKYDIVING!

LYNN SMITH

After thinking about an idea for raising money for charity, Allyson Siniecki, Pauline Grant and Myself, decided we would challenge our fears and do a skydive. We don't do things by halves!

We decided to get in touch with St Andrews Skydive at Kinglassie in Fife, which is the nearest skydive centre to Fochabers, but still a distance of 150 miles.

After filling out all relevant forms and medical information, we got word that our date had been booked for July 10th. It was then that we wondered what on earth we had got ourselves into? However, we then set ourselves the task of getting as much sponsorship money as we could for our chosen charities.

Pauline decided to raise money for Prostate Cancer Scotland because it was a charity close to her heart. Pauline's husband had an operation on his prostate, just a few days before our skydive date.

Allyson decided that her chosen charity would be for MND Scotland because of one of our ex school pupils, the very brave Lucy Lintott, who has been living with the disease for more than 2 years.

My chosen charity was of course, "Hayley's Help" set up after we lost our beautiful daughter in March 2013.



As many of you will know, our first skydive date came and went without anything happening. We were there first thing in the morning and ready to go but the "summer weather" let us down and we had to abandon hope for it happening that day.

Our second date was booked in for 22nd July and yet again we travelled down to Kinglassie with the hope that we would get the job done. Yet again, despite being at the airfield at 7 am and waiting there for 10 long hours, the clouds would not give way to any clear breaks and we had to come away disappointed again.



Third booking date was made for Saturday 27th August and one more time we made the journey down, hoping it would be third time lucky for us.



This time, the weather was kind to us and we were finally able to get our jumps done and dusted. Both Allyson and Pauline enjoyed their experience and say they would do it again but I actually hated every second of it and would never do it in a million years! However, it's not a challenge if you're not scared and believe me, we were scared! We are all so very grateful to our family, friends and colleagues for their generous contributions to our causes and we are delighted to say that we have raised the fantastic sum of £5500 which we will share equally between each charity.

"Hayley's Help" raises money to help local people who have, often under difficult circumstances, due to illness, been in need of some financial help for travel expenses

to and from hospital etc. The money from the charity has also been used to buy a special treat for special people who have had to go through some tough times during treatment for serious illnesses.

I'm sure you all know of Hayley as she was a member of Bellie congregation and loved being a member of her Fochabers family too. I am positive that she would approve of the charity we set up in her name and she would love to think that the money was being put to some very worthwhile causes.

## ECO TEAM RECYCLING ANSWERS FROM PAGE 6

Answers

- 1). No the fibres get worn out.
- 2). Yes always.
- 3). 78.5%
- 4). Responsibly both recovered fibres and virgin pulp.
- 5). Recycle them. The more you do the more we can increase our use of recovered material in your daily paper.





## BELLIE & SPEYMOOUTH GUILD MARGARET KING, GUILD CONVENER

We had lovely 'summer outings' to Knockando Church's Heavenly Pieces in May, McKenzie & Cruikshank's in June and the Aroma Café, Lossiemouth in August. But the best was our visit to Margaret Thomson's beautiful home in July for a scrumptious cream tea followed by sun-bathing on the veranda. [Photos above. None of us thought to bring bikinis! ] The views over the countryside, including the joyful Women's Land Army sculpture, were fabulous! Thanks, Margaret!!



Our summer coffee morning was excellent and happy. Thank you so much to all who served and supported, especially Sid, who could well find himself adopted by the Guild, if he does not join us on his own behalf! There has been sadness too as we have had to say our farewells to two stalwart Guild members, who though unable to attend meetings over recent years were always interested and fully supportive of the Guild and its aims and service. We thank God for Jackie Owsnet and Margaret Riddell. They knew 'whose they were and whom they served' and have gone to be with Christ which is far better.

And so on to our next session - Tue evenings in Bellie and afternoons at Speymouth. We would love to see you at either or both!

- 20 Sep 7.30 Mountains & Music – Donald Urquhart, Elgin High Walking Group. Anna McClure – piano
- 4 Oct 2 pm Dedication Service – Rev Morris Smith
- 18 Oct 7.30 Quarriers' Story & Carers – Abby Spencer
- 1 Nov 2 pm Buckie North Concert Party
- 15 Nov 7.30 Open Meeting for Guild Week – The Revellers & Co
- 6 Dec 5.30 Christmas Meal – Time & place tbc



Be bold, be strong – come and join us! Margaret King

## FINANCE TEAM UPDATE BY CHRIS CAMPBELL

Since the union of Bellie and Speymouth in January 2015, the Finance Team has been keen to find ways of enabling members of the congregation to make their financial offering to support the work of the Church in a way that suits them.

You can donate to the Church in the following ways:

- Standing Order
- Offering envelopes
- Open Plate
- Payments direct to the Treasurer
- By credit or debit card using the link on the church website at [www.bellieandspeymouth.org.uk](http://www.bellieandspeymouth.org.uk)

<p><b>What happens when we place £10 in the offering plate?</b></p> <p><b>X</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It all goes to 121</li><li>• It all goes to help churches in poor areas</li><li>• It pays for the Minister</li></ul> <p><b>✓</b></p> <p><b>It provides a powerful ministry, locally, nationally and globally</b></p>	<p><b>It provides a powerful ministry, locally, nationally and globally</b></p> <p><b>£4.20</b> is kept by the local church</p> <p><b>£4.88</b> pays for our Ministers</p> <p><b>92p</b> gives important help for congregations and supports the mission of the Church</p>	<p><b>Let's look at this in more detail:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>About £4.20</b> is kept by the local church for all sorts of costs including maintaining the building, mission, worship and supporting church groups</li><li>• <b>About £4.88</b> goes to the Parish Ministries Fund. This ensures we have ministries in every part of the country</li></ul> <p><small>We should also remember that each Presbytery can use 5% of its total Ministries and Mission contributions at its own discretion to assist congregations.</small></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>About 92p</b> supports congregations with services such as Safeguarding, Law Department, General Trustees, and Stewardship and Finance. Some of this money also ensures the mission of the Church is strengthened through the work of Councils.</li><li>• <b>8p</b> Mission Discipleship</li><li>• <b>5p</b> Church and Society</li><li>• <b>9p</b> Social Care (Crossreach)</li><li>• <b>12p</b> World Mission</li><li>• <b>45p</b> Support Services (legal advice, accounting, safeguarding)</li><li>• <b>6p</b> General Assembly and Moderator</li><li>• <b>7p</b> Special Contributions</li></ul>
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### Standing Order

The most efficient way to give to the Church is by Standing Order. A significant number of church families already choose to give in this way and we would like to encourage more to do so. The Standing Order can be set up to be paid in whatever way is most convenient, be that weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually and on whichever date of the month suits you best.

As well as being much more secure and reducing the work of the Finance Team and others counting the collection, for many it is easier than other methods as it dispenses with the need to look out cash for the offering on a Sunday morning or completing multiple envelopes if you have been unable to come to Church for a few weeks.

The other key advantage is that it reduces the cost of the offering envelopes, which in the last few years has been as much as £250 per year. Reducing this cost would mean that your offerings could be spent more effectively on other aspects of the Church's work.

If you do not currently give to the Church by Standing Order and would like to, the Finance Team would be very pleased to pass you a Standing Order mandate for you to complete and return to your bank.

### Gift Aid

For those of you who are taxpayers, the signing of a Gift Aid declaration can increase the value of offerings made by 25% at no cost to the individual. All that is needed is the signing of one form and the Finance Team does the rest.

Many church families have already signed Gift Aid declarations which allowed the Church to receive tax of over £10,500 from HM Revenue & Customs in 2015 – once again at no additional cost to the individuals concerned. In fact, for higher rate taxpayers, the signing of a Gift Aid declaration can even lead to less tax payable as they can claim additional tax relief on their tax returns.



There are a few myths about the Gift Aid scheme that may discourage people from giving in this way:

- ⇒ If the Church is claiming back tax I have paid does this mean that the church can see confidential details about my tax affairs? No, the Church does not find out any details about a member's income, tax paid or any other confidential details. The Church can recover the tax because the taxpayer has signed a declaration confirming that they have paid Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax of at least the amount of tax being paid to the church on the donation.
- ⇒ Do I have to commit to paying a set amount for a set period of time? No, that was the position under the old Deeds of Covenant. With Gift Aid, there is no commitment to make a set donation or a minimum donation. Gift Aid could even apply to a single donation.
- ⇒ If my circumstances change and I am longer paying tax, does this cause problems for the Church? No, all that is required is to notify the Finance Team (preferably in writing) that any future donations should be treated as outwith the Gift Aid scheme.

If you are a taxpayer and do not already give under the Gift Aid scheme and would like to, please get in touch with a member of the Finance Team who would be pleased to pass you a Gift Aid declaration for you to complete.

The Finance Team really is a friendly bunch of folks, so if you have any questions about financial matters in the church, please get in touch with Betty Brown, Marjory Whyte, Joan Jones or myself at Bellie or Olive Jenkins and Jenny Reid at Speymouth.

## KEY DATES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD - 2016/2017

Date	Event	Time	Place
Sunday 2 October 2016	Harvest Thanksgiving	10.00am 11.30am	Bellie Church Speymouth Church
Sunday 6 November 2016	Holy Communion	10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm	Bellie Church Speymouth Church Milnescroft Court
Sunday 13 November	Remembrance Sunday	10.00am 11.30am	Bellie Church Speymouth Church
Sunday 18 December 2016	United Family Worship	10.00am	Bellie Church
Saturday 24 December 2016	Christmas Eve Carols	6.00pm 7.30pm 11.00pm	Garmouth Village Hall Bellie Church Speymouth Church
Sunday 25 December 2016	United Christmas Worship	11.00am	Bellie Church
Sunday 1 January 2017	United Worship	10.00am	Speymouth Church
Sunday 8 January 2017	United Worship (Souper Sunday)	10.00am	Bellie Church
Sunday 5 February 2017	Holy Communion	10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm	Bellie Church Speymouth Church Milnescroft Court
Sunday 19 March 2017	United Worship (Stated Annual Meeting)	10.00am	Speymouth Church
Sunday 9 April 2017	Palm Sunday	10.00am 11.30am	Bellie Church Speymouth Church
Sunday 16 April 2017	Easter Sunday	7.00am 11.00am	Speymouth Church (Sunrise Service) Bellie Church
Sunday 23 April 2017	Holy Communion	10.00am 11.30am 6.00pm	Bellie Church Speymouth Church Milnescroft Court
Sunday 4 June 2017	Pentecost		
Sunday 25 June 2017	Young Church – End of 2016/17 session		
Sunday 2 July 2017	Summer Services begin		
Sunday 30 July 2017	Ecumenical Worship	10.00am	Speyfest tent
Sunday 3 September 2017	Holy Communion		
Sunday 5 November 2017	Holy Communion		

## JOKES FROM THE HOLIDAY CLUB TREASURE BOX

Why did the Queen go to the dentist? To get her teeth crowned! Angus P5	Why did Humpty Dumpty go up the hill? To smash his own egg! Lee P3	Why do giraffes have long necks? So they can't smell their feet! Caleigh P3
Why did the banana go to the Doctor? 'cos he wasn't peeling well! Chloe P1	How do you make a sausage roll? Push it! Kieran P1	Why do witches all look the same? So you can't tell which witch is which! Zoe P2
Why did the boy take a ladder to school? Because it was a High School! Niamh P5	What do you call a magic tractor? One that turns into a field! Lewis P3	Why do you go to bed? Because the bed can't go to you! Mia P5
Why can't you give Elsa a balloon? Because she will let it go! Erin P3	Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7,8,9! Gemma P7	A cowboy rides into town on Friday. He stays for 2 days and he leaves on Friday. How can that be? His horse is called Friday! Amelia P5

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

### JEAN MURRAY

**I have been at Bellie since.....**since about 1980.

**I came to Bellie because...**I'd moved to Spey Bay, and knew the kids would be Fochabers bound for school, so it made sense to transfer from Buckie.

**One thing I enjoy about Bellie is....**the music. There's such a wealth of talent in the musicians and singers who regularly take part in worship.

**I find a lot of joy in.....**my grandchildren, and appreciate how close by they are. So many folk have to make do with weekly Skype and long periods between visits. Mine are on the doorstep - a lot!

**If I won the lottery I would.....**take great pleasure in making things easier for people who I know, who are doing the best they can and doing it well, then make a huge donation to favourite charities.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island, and could have one luxury item with me it would be...** a luxury hamper would be great! 'A' Hamper is one thing isn't it? Mind you it would probably have loads of fishy things like caviar and that would be useless for me, so maybe my Kindle would be best ...perhaps I should pre load a book on survival on a desert island ... just in case!

**If I could travel to anywhere in the world it would be to .....**Petra. It's definitely high on my bucket list! I've been fortunate to travel to some amazing destinations so maybe Petra will happen one day.

**The title of a book about me would be....**"Now where is she?" ...never usually where I should be!

**If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be...** "The Sea". I love to look at it, in all its moods.

**If I could go back in time, I would travel to...** (I'd find it hard to go back in time, but I think a glimpse of life

in) a Downton Abbey style era would be nice - above stairs of course!

**Once upon a time.....** I drove a JCB digger from Upper Dallachy to Nether Dallachy, guided by my son aged about 7. I was terrified.....but not as terrified as the lady who was walking along the roadside with her son who was the same age as mine, when she realised who was driving, and literally jumped 3 feet back from the verge faster than she ever moved in her life!

### ETHAN LAMBOURNE



**I have been at Bellie.....**since I was born.

**I came to Bellie because.....**it's near to my house.

**One thing I enjoy about Bellie is....**the activities such as colouring in and doing crafts.

**I find a lot of joy in....**going for long cycle rides with my mum, dad and brothers.

**If I won the lottery I would....**buy my family things that they need, give a lot to charity, save the rest for the future when I would need a car or a house when I grow up.

**If I could travel anywhere in the world it would be to....**Spain because I have heard my mum say that she wants to go there with us for a holiday to let us play at the beach, then go to London again because I liked going on the big wheel and seeing places that I recognised like Big Ben. If it was in four years time then I would pick Tokyo because the Olympics will be happening there.

**If I was stranded on a deserted island, my luxury item would be....**my family (awww!)

**The title of a book about me would be....**"Ethan's Adventures" and be about what happens in my life, and would include my family in it and my friends.

**If I was to create a piece of art, the subject would be ...** Doves for peace.

**If I could go back in time, I would travel to...**Ancient Greece because I would like to see what sports happened in the first Olympics.





## BELLIE BABES ANNETTE MEIGHAN PHOTOGRAPHS ANNE MURRAY

Mini Guardians of Ancora had a great time at their special session of Bellie babes during Holiday Club week and we had 27 under 4's that morning! (Along with 20 older children and 40 adults!) They made boats, decorated fish biscuits, painted fish, made up plates with loaves and fish and decorated people to be fishers of men. All linking in with the Quests that the older children had been learning about. Scruff the dog told the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 and had his very own picnic of 5 loaves and 2 fish fingers!

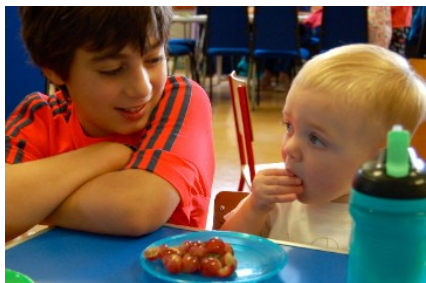


The morning disappeared very quickly but everyone had great fun.

We waved some of our older members off to full time nursery at the beginning of term, and look forward to seeing them in the holidays again. But it has been wonderful to continue to welcome more young children and babies to the group along with their mums over the last month.

Our new leaflet is now published so if you know of anyone who would be interested in coming along to the group, please ask me for one, also the local Health Visitor is going to give one out to every new mum she visits – a very exciting step forward.

September will see the first anniversary of 'The Friends of Bellie Babes'. I cannot imagine life without them now and I am absolutely sure that the success of the group this year is due to their input, teamwork and commitment. In speaking to the mums it is obvious that we offer something different to the regular mums and toddler groups and its something that on my own I couldn't do but with my team and the right team we have grown and developed something amazing filled with God's love.



## SPEY BAY FUN FOR YOUNG CHURCH LISA CAMPBELL

On a clear and dry June morning, in a break from the norm, Young Church members and their helpers headed to Spey Bay for a morning of fun.

Whilst we waited for our Ice House tour, a game of croquet was enjoyed. Who knew that hitting a ball through a ladybird or bee decorated hoop could be so tricky!

The children were then guided under the stone arches of the Ice House into the sea's depths, enabling them to see the world from a dolphin's eye. The wonderful sounds and sights of Spey Bay both above and below the water captured all of our attention. If you have never experienced a dry dive or haven't been for a while, take a trip to the Dolphin Centre and enjoy it for yourself. And our fun didn't end there.

The children happily and excitedly explored Spey Bay in search of treasure. There was such delight when they successfully worked out the clue, and squeals of excitement when they found the next one.



Their final clue was to look east towards the Spey and lots of happy faces as they discovered the dolphins were guarding their treasure bags.

After all that hard work it was finally time to sit down and enjoy some sunshine and lunch. A great adventure with plenty of fun and fellowship.





## BELLIE CLOCK TOWER RESTORATION      BY JOAN JONES    PHOTOS ANNE MURRAY

Work has now started on the Bellie Church Clock Tower Restoration which will be completed by the end of November 2016. The restoration has been made possible by the confirmed grant received from The Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic Environment Scotland. Other benefactors include:- The Gordon and Ena Baxter Foundation, Moray Council Landfill Tax, The Baird Trust, All Churches, The Fochabers Village Association and fund raising from the Church Congregation, the bulk of which has come from the loyal supporters of "Coffee and Chat".



The Bellie Clock Tower requires urgent work to make it wind and water tight due to the erosion and weathering of mortar in the joints in the stonework. Water penetration has also had an adverse effect on the soft sandstone in which the interior of the tower is built. Bellie Church is a Grade A listed Georgian building and is the centre piece of the Conservation Area around The Square of Fochabers and the clock is the village timekeeper. However as the clock has been stopped until the work has been completed, the people of Fochabers, and others, will have to rely on their wrist watch or mobile phone to tell them the time! The clock is one of very few that remains in its original state, dating from 1798.

As part of this work a Heritage Project, involving Church Tours, has been developed and covers the Church History, Artefacts, Stained Glass Windows and the Clock Tower. Several successful tours have already taken place and will continue for the foreseeable future. To Arrange a Tour please phone 07763619640.



### FOCHABERS COMMUNITY LUNCH CLUB

Are you looking for new friends?

Would you like to enjoy lunch out with old friends, as well as making new friends?

Why not consider joining Fochabers Community Lunch Club? We are looking for new members!

We meet every Thursday in Bellie Church Hall.

Lunch is served at 12 noon.

Our cook Moira provides a wonderful two course lunch for £4.

The only requirement is that you are retired.

Why not come along and join us and meet the other members and enjoy a lovely meal.



### CENTENARY CELEBRATION

Mrs Janet Shand who is a Speymouth Member has reached the grand old age of 100 years on 5th April, 2016. Janet is still staying in her own house in Elgin, is very alert and has an infectious laugh. Thank you to Grace Hendry for sharing this wonderful news, and congratulations to Janet from the Bellie and Speymouth Church Community!





## MUSINGS FROM MY YEAR AS MODERATOR OF PRESBYTERY

With the new year of Presbytery about to start, these are just some memories of my year as Moderator from 2015/16. I do not expect you to stand to attention as you read this! ☺

I remember the phone call from Rev Shuna Dicks (Convenor of Business Committee) asking me to consider taking on the role of Moderator. I was a mixture of excited, terrified, doubtful and 'chuffed'. As I took time to pray, there came a very strong sense that I **should** have a go at something that was very much outside my comfort zone (i.e. chairing meetings). It would be a good exercise to stretch my faith and prove the existence of the Holy Spirit to guide and strengthen [And it surely did!] After I accepted, the Lord confirmed it to me by giving me a theme for my devotions throughout the year which was a great help.

[What's the Point of...Presbytery, the Old Testament, Worship, Christmas and so on]



I thought that all the 'controversial stuff' was past and I would not have difficult meetings to 'moderate'. Sadly, this was not to be. And whereas, we had been complaining the previous year about it taking longer to get to Lhanbryde than the actual meeting, now we would look back longingly from two or three very long 'painful' sessions of 2-3 hours.

But throughout it all I was very much upheld by the prayers of presbyters and others. There's also nothing like knowing you are where God means you to be, and therefore, 'safe and secure from all alarms'!

But it was not all about meetings and I enjoyed attending two spectacular RC celebrations on behalf of Presbytery - for the life of St John Ogilvie of Keith, an open air Mass in Kynoch Park, and the rededication of the rebuilt Pluscarden Abbey. I felt a tad under-dressed when it came to the RC clergy and the lay members of the Templars of St John of Jerusalem!



It was fascinating watching Bishop Hugh going round anointing the walls of the Abbey - very Old Testament. There was one young boy

there for the whole 3 hours, holding the folders from which the Bishop would speak and helping him change from one robe and

headgear to another and back again. He only had to be nudged once whereas the older man beside him definitely nodded off near the end!

My B-grade Higher Latin stood up pretty well, I thought, to the many prayers chanted in Latin. I tried not to look at the translation helpfully given on the opposite page until I had had a go myself!

Then, thanks to your good selves, the Presbytery Team raised the 3<sup>rd</sup> highest amount of sponsorship money in the Elgin Marafun, which entails 5 members of a team each 'running' a 5.2 mile section of a marathon. I managed my 'leg' in one hour - honest! - another 'out-of-comfort zone' experience to say the least!



Other highlights were the induction and introduction of Ministers to their new charges and the visit to Moray of the 'real' Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison who was a credit to the Gospel and a pleasure to be with.



All in all, a year of proving the Lord's faithfulness over and over and many memories to take into my dotage! With many thanks for all your interest, support and prayers - they worked!

Margaret King



## SUNDAY CLUB 2016/2017 SESSION MARGARET MCINNES

We are continuing to use the Spill the Beans material as the basis for our programme. In the coming session we have the following themes Lost and Found, New House Rules and Grand Designs.

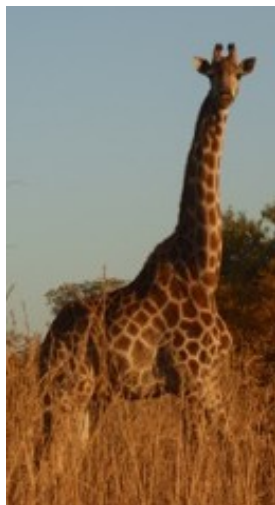
Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service is on Sunday, October 2nd. Sunday Club will continue during the October holidays.

On Sunday November 6th we go “On Safari” when Katie is joining us to speak about her adventures in Africa. I know she has some super photos to show the children as well. We are planning a fun morning with an animal theme. Don’t worry she didn’t bring anything living back with her!

Our Christmas preparations during Advent will include the Jesse tree which is a journey through the family tree of Jesus. There will be decorations to make to decorate our tree in the church. The Christmas Family service will be on Sunday 18th December and our next Sunday Club meeting will be on Sunday January 8th.

Young Church families should keep the afternoon of Saturday 7th January free for our Sunday Club Celebration Panto Party. Come dressed as your favourite pantomime character ready for some games, dancing and party food. Santa will be away for a rest but we will have a surprise guest with some presents. I wonder who it will be.....

### OUT IN AFRICA KATIE HORTON



I would like to thank everyone who supported me to help me fundraise for my trip. I had a fantastic time and gained so much valuable knowledge. Staying in the Dinokeng Game Reserve was quite surreal at times, as you didn’t have to go far to see wildlife. On different nights we saw Ostrich, Elephant, Wildebeest and Giraffe walk by our accommodation. Before this I would have been excited to see a deer twice the distance away at home.

Being a research assistant was hard work. The day started early, waking up at 5am so that we were out before sunrise to identify birds. It certainly reminded me that it was winter in South Africa as we sat on the frosty seats. However, by lunchtime it was t-shirt weather and I swapped my wooly hat for my cap. We carried out habitat surveys and game transects as well as spending some days checking camera traps.

The trip was an eye-opener and it was certainly thought provoking being able to see conservation issues from a different perspective. Some of the animals we are fascinated by are a common occurrence for local people to see. Something that I will never forget is having to focus on surveying grass as a rhino watched us from a distance. I will be sharing my experiences with the Sunday Club on the 6th November and will be around afterwards if anyone would like to learn more about the work I was involved in.

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