



The Ronnecht

Autumn Edition 2019



Banchory Ternan East Church

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch.com

The Ronnecht



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A message from the team

It seems not so long ago that we sent the last edition of the magazine to print and here we are introducing the Autumn 2019 edition to you.

As well as introducing the magazine I would also like to introduce two new members to our team here at Ronnecht headquarters, Andy Brown and Stan Thomson.



Reading through the pages you will get an in-depth look at the work of our church and how we serve God. We call this Stewardship or how we all work together to fulfil our vision: to know Christ and make him known.

Jesus said to Peter, 'and I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church' (Matthew 16:18). It was on that very rock that Jesus did build the church. He built our church and by listening to him we can use our God-given gifts to carry on his work.

When you read through our reviews of the summer and our dates for the next few months, you will be reminded that we are a busy church and highly involved in our community. If you don't want to miss any updates you can sign up for our monthly newsletter via the link on the homepage of the Banchory East Church website. You can find it at www.banchoryeastchurch.com where you will also find some other insights into the life of our church.

Don't forget to follow Alan's sermons (available at 10:30 am in church each Sunday or online- just follow the links from the website home page) over the next few weeks where he takes us through the journey of Mark. There are extra supplements to go alongside the sermons to help your journey. If you haven't got one please speak to Alan or Lillian.

Enjoy! - Sarah

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A message from your Minister

Dear Friends,

My mother was a primary teacher in the south east of England where, when it came to speech, the letter 'h' was left wrapped up in bubble plastic, nestling in the box in which God first presented it to the world. One morning she asked her class for nouns that began with the letter 'a'. Once the class had heard of ants, anchors and apples, one young boy put up his hand and simply said the word at, paused and added "You know miss, the 'at what you puts on your 'ead." The boy had a simple message to bring to his class, but it took some explanation to work out, didn't it?



As a church we ask people to get enthused about our vision 'To know Christ and make Him known' and then to participate in it by giving of time, skills and money. This is not about us saying, we find this a bit difficult to do at the moment, could you help us out with your time, skill and in particular your money? This is about us putting across our amazing vision enthusiastically and inviting those we meet to participate. We call it Stewardship. My mother's experience teaches us to listen hard to what people say for we all see things in unique ways.

To know Christ and make him known. We might say we are asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference to the world and that means more people knowing Jesus and more justice in the world. So how do we go about expanding and extemporising a new dance, song, poem or thriller around our vision statement? We all have preferred style and tastes, but our vision focuses on what is important. First and foremost, on knowing Jesus. Yes, Paul and the rest of the history of the church will frame helpful dogma and doctrine, but at the centre of our vision is knowing Christ ourselves as a friend. As with any friendship it starts with an introduction and a handshake and that is what the gospel writers give us.

On Sundays from August to Advent this year we will march swiftly through Mark's gospel as we explore just what it means to know Christ. Mark's is a simple gospel that looks for us to respond to one central question. Jesus asks his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?". Peter answers, "you are the Messiah (the Christ)" and that answer is a game changer for Mark as it is for us. From then on Mark focuses on what it means to be a Messiah and the uncomfortable truth of what it means to follow Christ. Our vision statement is in fact a very succinct restatement of Mark's gospel. To know Christ and make him known.

Mark is just one of four different snapshots of Jesus story that we have in our Bible. We call them all the good news, but Mark's pattern is the one which set the trend. Mark's is the first gospel written and he gets the medal for inventing the gospel format. Reading Mark you discover that the good news is a message given to us to respond to, but that message is not a form of words given to us by a messenger. Peter says, "you are the Messiah" and Jesus shows us what a messiah actually does. Jesus himself is waiting for his disciples in the ordinary life of Galilee. Jesus, himself, not words of Peter penned by Mark, is waiting for us to join him in the ordinary things of our life; all of them. The challenge for each of us is in how we respond to that request to go meet him. Many through the years have followed, many have ignored him. Yet still today we, who do know Jesus (the Christ), are asked by Jesus to make him known to those we meet and allow them to respond based not on what the world tells them, but the story that Mark writes of a messenger who is actually the message, Jesus the Christ, the good news, our Lord. Knowing Jesus enthuses, strengthens, encourages and comforts us. Knowing Christ and making him known drives all we do at the East, be it messy church, crafty church, friendship lunch or supporting Kandy and Christian Aid. Through our vision we are asking God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference to the world and that means more people knowing Jesus. How are you going to get more involved?

Your minister, Alan

Church Noticeboard



A **Strathspey and Reel concert** will take place in the East Church on Thursday 5th September 2019, starting at 7.15pm. Tickets priced at £6.00 are available from Muriel, the church office, or you can pay at the door



The 'Friends of Bellfield' held a **Strawberry Tea at Bellfield Care** home on Saturday 13th July. It was well attended and enjoyed by all, with the sum of over £500 being raised

Rev Holly Smith



On 8th August 2019, presbytery of Kincardine and Deeside met to induct Rev Holly Smith to Mid Deeside church. Worship was led by Rev Jean Boyd from Durrus-Drumoak and members of Mid Deeside church, the sermon was preached by Rev Rodolphe Blanchard Kowal from Portlethen church and Holly was inducted by Alan as his last act as presbytery Moderator for the year.

Stewardship week of giving

Watch out over the coming weeks for the invitation to join with us at events over one week to ensure that all get the opportunity to contribute to building our vision here of a bigger church to make a bigger difference to community and the world. Details of times and venues will be on the order of service, website, Facebook and the newsletter soon.



Join us after the harvest service on Sunday 29th September in the hall for **Harvest Lunch**



Join the Guild for their family quiz on **Sat 14th September** at 7pm.

Teams of 4 with tickets £4 pp payable at door but please confirm number to Margaret Thom

Messy Church Dates

Tue 24th September - with the story of Moses
Tue 15th October for our Mini Holiday Club at 10am
Tue 26th November - Christmas fun

On the night of 10th August, a group of scouts were found wandering through Dunecht by Sheila, the minster of Echt church. They had suffered through a night of bad weather. As Jago, one of the leaders (front row on left), put it. "We only got one Sunny day, then we were sleeping in a tent full of water." Sheila brought them to us to dry out and after two nights they continued on their walk to the Cairngorms.



Church In Brief

Crafty Church - Thursday 19th September at 1:00 pm



Crafty Church meetings are on the 3rd Thursday of the month and for the remainder of the year will be 17th October, 21st November and 19th December. Meetings usually commence with an opening Devotional from Alan which is interesting, informative, thought provoking, often a timely discussion. Then there is some kind of activity which may or may not involve participation followed by perhaps some singing and a cuppa with chat. The meeting is open to all.

The Silver Linings

We are a group of four ladies, Helen, Maureen, Pat and I, who enjoy entertaining. We are all members of Raemoir WI. One evening we were asked to entertain at the Durris WI, so we gave it a try. We enjoyed it so much we decided to entertain at our own rural meeting, and that was the start of our journey. We chose a uniform, blue sparkly tops, and it was then that 'The Silver Linings' were created. We have recently entertained at Dalvenie and Belfield, and thoroughly enjoyed seeing how much the residents joined us in the singing. We all love rehearsing and performing but we really enjoy the pleasure and joy we bring to other people. *Ray Thomson*



Congregational Picnic

Our congregational picnic was celebrated under the sunshine on Aboyne Green again this year. As always we were blessed with great weather an excellent company. With a fabulous spread of food and some games in the sun, everyone enjoyed themselves. It was a great success and we would like to thank everyone who attended and a very big thank you to those who helped to organise the event.



Kids Kirk Celebration

Our Annual Kids Kirk Celebration was held on Sunday 30th July in the church. With most of our Kids Kirk families being able to join us on the day, we welcomed a large number of children into the service. The children all helped the congregation to share their favourite hymn and a small prayer to be added to a whole church display. We created a beautiful sunflower and a memory book together. These can be seen in the main hall or by asking a member of the Kid Kirk team who will be very pleased to show you.

Beetle Drive



On Saturday 22nd June, we held another Beetle Drive in the Church Hall as a social/fundraising event.

The event was ably hosted by Charles Robertson and attended by about 20 people. Everyone appeared to enjoy the evening and the eventual winners were Andy Thom and Harry Abernethy. £124 was raised for church funds.

Thanks to all who organised, helped and attended.

Parish Deaths

George Shepherd - 25th May 2019

Archie Brown - 29th May 2019

Heather Jones - 7th June 2019

Robin Maitland - 10th August 2019

Archie Brown: Organiser of celebrations for Rail 150 dies aged 91

Archie Brown was born into a railway family in the Scottish borders. He joined the London North Eastern Railway aged 14 as a parcel clerk at Haymarket station but moved all over the country with the railways. Wherever he went he maintained his interest in the church of Scotland too. Aged 18 in 1945, Archie and his twin brother, Lawrie, joined Claremont Church now South Leith Church, the church where both Caroline and Andy were baptised. While in Edinburgh he fell in love with the voice of Mary, the



Waverley station announcer, who he spoke to most days on the telephone. Over the phone, he asked her out, and they married in 1954.

Archie moved to Glasgow in 1966 and joined the kirk session at Greenbank Church in Clarkston. In 1969 he moved to Darlington where Archie became an Elder at Northgate Church. As the railway manager, a leading citizen in the town, Archie met Princess Anne in 1970 when she opened the new town hall.

The 150th anniversary events in 1975 included an exhibition opened by Home Secretary Willie Whitelaw, the opening of North Road Station Museum by the Duke of Edinburgh, the opening of the Timothy Hackworth Museum at Shildon by the Queen Mother, and a Sunday service broadcast on national television from Bank Top station. The cavalcade from Shildon to Darlington was the climax. It was watched by half a million people on August 31st 1975. "I remember great excitement in Darlington," Archie said. "Shops were decorated, flags were flying, everywhere looked clean, a feeling of well-being abounded – something was in the air and we were all going to enjoy ourselves."

Archie oversaw the arrival of 18 charter trains from across the country, a shuttle service ferrying 20,000 people from Darlington to Shildon and then, on the day itself, departure of 32 engines at two minute intervals from Shildon, starting with a replica of Locomotion No 1 and concluding with the High Speed Train prototype. "The whole operation. controlled from my room in Darlington station, worked like a dream which was very much a tribute to the absolute devotion to duty of all the rail staff involved," he said.

Archie remembers in 1978, Prince Charles stopping the Royal Train at Bank Top station and signing a visitor's book – an event that went like clockwork, despite a bomb hoax shortly before the prince arrived.

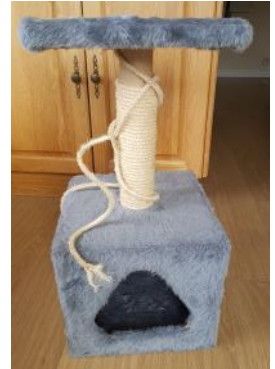
"Rail chief off to boom city", was the headline in the Evening Despatch when Archie moved to Aberdeen. He joined Banchory East church session and discovered Rev Bill Nicholson knew his mother. When Bill lived in Findlay Avenue, Craigentenny, Archie lived at Findlay Cottages.

He retired from the railway in 1982, and finally retired from active duty as an elder in 1997.

Stewardship - An introduction

To know Christ and to make him known

The church makes much of the word stewardship. Often, all we hear is “we’d like your money”, but at the East it’s much more than that. It is how we live out our vision; to know Christ and make Him known and that means money, yes, but our time and skills too. When we think about stewardship it resembles the intertwined strands of the string on our cat’s scratching post or the messy strands of parcel string my grandfather kept in a tin because ‘they may be useful someday’. Untwist the strands of three-ply string and yes you have three strands of string, but each has lost some of its strength. Unravel church and yes you have separate strands of stewardship, discipleship and mission, but you lose what makes the church work. It’s only when all the strands are present and working together that we live our vision to know Christ and make Him known.



Discipleship: knowing Christ - Called to read

Maybe we are fairly comfortable with the first part of our vision. Knowing Christ is about reading the Bible and going to church regularly; spending time thinking about your life against the ideas of the bible. This does mean a lifelong daily work out. There is no substitute for shifting those verses daily, even when you’d rather be out playing, shopping, joining other groups or simply reading or watching TV. Reading the Bible is the best way to understand how God wants us to live. There are different ways to read and understand the Bible in a way that suits you, your personality and lifestyle. When you read the Bible, you meet the inspired writers who point you to God and you meet with those who have interpreted these words with love over the centuries. Because of this, we can read with love and understanding.

Discipleship: knowing Christ - Called to pray

Prayer is something we can all do and as a disciple we want to find ways in which we can grow our prayer life. But we can be unsure how to go about it, can’t we? Jesus tells us that prayer is the way that we can enter a place where we meet God and feel how God can sustain our lives. Prayer is simply a conversation with God. A good place to start is with the Lord’s prayer. You can find the Lord’s prayer in the Bible in two places: in Matthew’s Gospel in chapter 6, and in Luke’s Gospel in chapter 11. The two versions are slightly different. This shows the richness of what Jesus gave us and the fact that the prayer can illuminate different things for different people. As you pray it, say it slowly, reflect on what the words mean for you and those special people around you in need at the moment you are praying.

In the Lord’s Prayer Jesus said God should be honoured and praised by Christians when they pray. Christians pray for God’s goodness and love to rule in the world. Christians ask God for the provision of their daily needs e.g. food, shelter etc. Christians ask forgiveness for failing to do, say or think what is right, recognising that they should also forgive others when they are wronged. Christians ask for help to do, think and say the right things and to be protected from harm. The prayer ends by acknowledging the power and glory of God. You can explore the Lord’s prayer more in the book, “Exploring the Lord’s Prayer with Maximus Mouse” written by Brian Ogden. There are also prayers on the order of service each week to help you pray regularly.

Remember, too that you are part of a wider family when you pray the Lord’s Prayer as part of your regular prayers. Many people think of prayer as being a private matter, a conversation between just you and God but praying with others is important too.

Discipleship: knowing Christ- Called to learn

Learning helps us grow and it's no different when we want to know Christ. We are called to find ways to learn more about our faith so we can grow. Often it is easier to learn together, so during advent we will be organising a number of get togethers to share the range of views of knowing Christ we see modelled in the gospel stories.

In learning about faith we meet others, who by their example, their stories and their wisdom, can teach us how to live. You learn when you meet other people, read a book or online resources.



From August to Advent this year we will be looking at Mark's gospel on Sunday. If you'd like to know more about the themes in Mark's gospel, Jeremy Duff has written a small book called Peter's preaching which looks at just that. Why Peter's preaching and not Mark's preaching? He answers that question too.

There will also be a series of simple worksheets to get you thinking that will accompany the sermons until advent this year and an occasional faith challenge to accept or not.

Mission: Making Him (Christ) known

Knowing Christ helps us with making Jesus known to the community around us. When we offer the marvellous vision we have and give those we meet the opportunities to be part of it, Paul reminds us to make our vision intelligible to the people we meet so that everyone hears us say 'this is who we are, this is our story. We are offering you a chance to be part of the exciting opportunities we enjoy'; So how do we actually do this, make our exciting vision known?

Mission: Making Him (Christ) known -Sent to Tell

As a disciple, you will want to see more people knowing Jesus, not in an arrogant, I am right kind of way, but in a way that asks people to take seriously that central question that Jesus asks his disciples 'Who do you say I am?'

It isn't scary really. If you've seen the TV programme catchphrases, you know how it works. All you do is simply say what you've seen and heard as it seems to you. If others see it differently, so what. That is what is so great about our Christian faith, we are all encouraged to work out how it fits together in our own way. There are very few, if any, questions that have a right answer.



This isn't really about teaching, impressing or persuading. It's Jesus through the Holy Spirit that impresses, persuades, teaches and who reassures and welcomes people as they build an answer, often over many years, to Jesus' question of who do you think I am?

This isn't about knowing all the answers before you dare admit to being part of the church. The simplest questions do not have simple, glib answers. When a child asks why did my granny or my mother die? Or when someone asks, why are people suffering if God is good, they are speaking of something of the mystery of life and the answer can be as simple as 'I don't know', but what I have discovered is that God is real and God's love has made a difference to me. Be ready with some kind of an explanation as you are sent to tell and be honest and bring the friend who asks along to meet God and his people in the East church either on Sunday or to one of the many groups during the week.

Mission: Making Him (Christ) known -Sent to Serve

As a committed disciple, you will be looking to serve your community by making a bigger difference. At the East church, there are many opportunities to be sent to serve, both in church groups and out in the community. The whole world is literally your oyster through our links with Kandy church and community groups in Sri Lanka as well as Christian Aid. Our church groups are always pleased to encourage somebody to get more involved. If you'd like more details of where you might help contact Lillian in the church office.

Sent to Serve - a view from the community - John, a Teacher

The board in our staffroom had been indicating it for a couple of weeks: End of term Service 10 am. We staggered and stumbled through the last of the terms work, finally arriving at the East Church on a 'warm with a chance of showers' Friday in July. The end of the school year had arrived.

As I listened to the readings from the Bible, heard the Lord's Prayer, wondered at the sound of 400 voices singing like waves on a timeless shore 'and I will trust in you alone', I reflected that this was a fitting end to our year. The school together in one place, all different yet joined in a celebration of the school year giving thanks to God for His faithfulness in the past and his continued help into the future.



All our days are marked with milestones- often associated with the church. A new baby, Sunday School prizegiving, End of term service, Carol service, being baptised, joining the church, getting married, and Funeral services. The church is very much part of the community – serving those younger and older and everything in between.

As Christians, we are called to give what we have to God. For the widow in Mark 12, Jesus observed 'she gave everything she had'. (Mark 12:44) Each of us has a gift that God has given us; we can hide it away like the unjust steward did (Matt 25:25) or use it for God's glory. God has given each of us this gift that it might bring honour to Him. We use the gift not to receive praise from others, but so when others see it, they might glorify our Father in Heaven (Matt 5:16)

May God help us all to serve Him with what we have and the gift He has given us and be spurred on by Jesus who loved us and gave himself for us.

Sent to serve - a view from the Worship Engagement Committee - Melanie Stewart Wills, Local Presbytery Preacher

On Tuesday 25th June I was invited to Fetteresso Church where our local Presbytery meeting was being held, in order to be commissioned as a Local Preacher.

As part of our Church's Worship Engagement Committee (W.E.C.) we were asked, what seems like a very long time ago, if we would be interested in undergoing training to become Local Presbytery Preachers. Janie Stuart, who you will remember was visiting from the States at that time, undertook the training for all the members of the W.E.C. I will never forget the absolute horror I felt when she informed us we would all be Preaching in Church one Sunday! Now, I am possibly quite rare in that I am happy to speak at the front of the Church and was used to delivering talks to the Children and Readings and prayers – but a Sermon - that was altogether different. With much needed support, guidance and prayer, I was finally able to be assessed on the 5th May this year, which resulted in the trip to Stonehaven and the Commissioning. Alan was Moderator at the Presbytery meeting and it was



he who asked me the all important questions, which having given them prayerful thought I duly answered. I then signed The Formula after which I was welcomed by what seemed like the whole Presbytery. Melanie

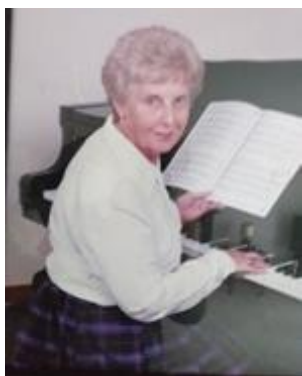
Sent to Serve - Opportunities within the church

While all groups working for the church are happy to discuss what it means to get involved in their work, the session has been asked particularly to encourage people to find out whether they could help at Tom Toms and/or the Toddler Group. Further details about Tom Toms can be found from Ruth Howarth (ruth.howarth1@btinternet.com) and about Toddlers from Helen Carberry (01330 824409).



Sent to Serve- through using her skills - Margaret Smith

On Saturday 27th July 2019 Margaret Smith, a member of Banchory East Church, was a guest of honour at a function held in the Invercarse Hotel Dundee. To explain how this all came about we should go to Huntly where Margaret was born in 1930. Her father George Donald played the fiddle, but only at home, where Margaret, after she had learned to play the piano, accompanied him. Her mother, Peggy Donald, also loved music and enjoyed sitting at the piano trying to learn by ear.



The musical gene runs in Margaret's family – as well as her mother and father's love of music her younger brother George Donald became well known through 'Scotland the What'! Margaret looked on brother George as a genius and found it hard to get him off the piano at home as he was always practicing. As both were very talented, their mother, arranged for concerts to be held in the back garden where both siblings entertained, to support the war effort.

Margaret was first taught to play the piano in Huntly and then, after finishing school at 15, she travelled to Aberdeen for lessons and where she gained her music diploma in teaching. Margaret met her husband Bill, who played the fiddle, in 1948 when she started as a pianist with the 'Boys Brigade' and the 'Huntly Harmonica Orchestra'. Margaret and Bill married in 1953 and they have two children, Jane, who is a violin teacher and the current conductor of the 'Banchory Strathspey and Reel Society, ('BS&RS') and William, who is a nurse. Margaret now has seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

In 1973 Margaret and Bill moved to Banchory, where Bill joined the 'BS&RS' and subsequently became its Secretary. Margaret later took over as the pianist of the Society. She also became their treasurer, a position she held for over forty years. Bill was very involved in the Rotary Club in Banchory and they both became 'Citizens of the Year' for their music contribution to the local community. Since Bill's death in 1998 Margaret has supported Rotary as a piano accompanist and was made an honorary member in 2001.



Margaret has been involved in music from an early age and has travelled extensively with the 'BS&RS' to USA, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland and Shetland. Margaret took organ lessons while in Huntly, and when they moved to Banchory she was asked to help as a temporary church organist – a position that lasted six years. Margaret is still asked to step in from time to time.

Over the years, through her work in music, Margaret has 'adopted' many young musicians including the Anderson family, Paul, David and Heather. She has been involved in the 'Banchory Festival' for more than forty years and loves to see the development of new musicians coming through the ranks. Margaret accompanied many of the competitors of the 'Glenfiddich Championships', which no longer exists. At one time she accompanied five competitors in one day, two of whom were her own grandchildren! If you played in the North East of Scotland at any time, Margaret probably has a story about you. Nowadays she plays in the 'Scolty Group' at various venues, care homes, etc doing mostly Scottish and sing-along tunes.

This brings us to the event in Dundee when Margaret was the guest of honour. She was honoured by the 'National Association of Accordion and Fiddle Clubs' for fifty years outstanding service to Scottish music and was presented with a magnificent piece of crystal in gratitude for all her work. Well done Margaret – Banchory East Church is proud of you.

To my friends and family at Banchory East Church,

In the past few months, I have had some time to reflect back on my experience as a Rookie at the East and West Church in Banchory. From the moment I set my foot out from the car onto Banchory pavement, I felt that place was home. Not just in the sense that it was where I would be living for the next year of my life, but that the people who surrounded me made me feel loved, like I could be a part of something bigger than me. I learned about myself, about the Church, and about the loving, immaculate God we serve in the months I was in Banchory. You each have extended kindness to me in some way, whether it be a smile, or asking about bits and pieces of my life. My time in Banchory was marred with the struggle of anxiety, but even through the difficulty, I still felt loved by the people around me.



At the time, I was unaware that anxiety was not only a reality, but was something that would affect me so deeply. This, ultimately was the factor that led to my sudden return back home. I am deeply saddened I could not finish my time in Banchory, because I know there will always be more joy to experience in your midst. However, what was best for me at that point of time was to be surrounded by my family while they uplift me in support, and help me process through this difficult time.

Recently, I have been in touch with an old supervisor from the time I was at university before coming to Scotland. He has been encouraging me and providing a potential opportunity for me to work at my university and serve students living on campus as a staff member and leader. Perhaps I can use this position to be an advocate and support for other students like me who are battling with anxiety, that they know they are not alone. I am trusting that our God is in control, and He will use everything for the furthering of His Kingdom, even the difficult things like my anxiety.

I love you all and wish you well. I hope this is not the last time I will show my face in Banchory, and perhaps next time we can grow even stronger in the love our God has for us, and share new stories of life together. Thank you all for your sacrifice and support for me to be a part of your Rookie Programme as long as I was, I am eternally grateful for every one of you.

Blessings and Peace from the US,

Destinee Nelons x

Diary Dates

September

Wednesday 4th September – Opening of the Guild, 7pm in Main Hall

Thursday 5th September - Banchory Strathspey & Reel Concert, 7.15pm in East Church

Saturday 7th September – Guild Annual Gathering (live streamed from Dundee to West Church)

Sunday 8th September – Communion, 10.30am

Sunday 8th September - Sunday 15th September – Guild Week

Saturday 14th September - Guild Quiz, 7pm in Main Hall

Sunday 15th September – Guild Church Service, 10.30am

Thursday 19th September - Crafty Church, 1pm in Main Hall

Tuesday 24th September - Messy Church (Story of Moses), 3.30pm in Main Hall

Sunday 29th September – Harvest Service and Harvest Lunch, 12 noon in Main Hall

October

Wednesday 2nd October – Guild Meeting, 7pm in Main Hall

Thursday 3rd October - Pastoral Care, Tea & Music, 2-4pm in Main Hall

Saturday 5th October – Book and Plant Sale, teas / coffees, etc. 10am in Main Hall

Wednesday 9th October – Opening of the Men's Group, 7pm in Main Hall

Thursday 10th October – Friendship Lunch, 12noon in Main Hall

Tuesday 15th October - Messy Church Mini Holiday Club, 10-12pm East Church

Thursday 17th October - Crafty Church, 1pm in Main Hall

Saturday 19th October – Bellfield Coffee Morning (held in East Church), 10am

Thursday 24th October - Friendship Lunch, 12 noon in Main Hall

November

Saturday 2nd November - Kandy Coffee Morning & Christmas Sale, 10am in Main Hall

Wednesday 6th November - Guild Meeting, 7pm in Main Hall

Sunday 10th November – Remembrance Sunday

Thursday 14th November – Friendship Lunch, 12 noon in Main Hall

Thursday 21st November - Crafty Church, 1pm in Main Hall

Saturday 23rd November - Guild Coffee Morning, 10am in Main Hall

Tuesday 26th November – Christmas Messy Church, 3.30pm in Main Hall

Thursday 28th November - Friendship Lunch, 12 noon in Main Hall

Saturday 30th November - Christmas lights switch on, 6pm onwards

Useful Contacts

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Session Clerk, Mike Jamieson

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Youth Co-ordinator - Greg Lister

greg@banchorywestchurch.com

Children and families worker, Sarah Reid

sarah@banchoryeastchurch.com

Director of Music, Muriel Welch

01330 822571, welcmd@gmail.com

Church Treasurer, Helen Carberry

01330 824409, treasurer@banchoryeastchurch.com

Church officer, Douglas Ogg

01330 825426

Magazine Team

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Scottish Charities No. SC011251

Mission: Making him (Christ) known-Sent to Give

As a disciple, you will want to give your time, talents and material resources so that God's work may go forward. Our vision already touches the lives of many adults and children in our community and is delivered by dozens of members and friends. We are thankful for all who volunteer in so many ways. Even though you are unpaid, the church still needs sufficient funds to maintain and develop our vision and the simple truth is that the money comes from you our members and friends, both present and past. Being a disciple, knowing Christ, comes with a call to give. That is easy to say but it's not so easy to do. We all start from different places and have different challenges, obstacles, and hurdles to overcome.



The Bible gives us a story of harvest in ancient Israel (Deuteronomy 26). In this story we see the ancient people give to God a basket of produce from that harvest. They did this to remind themselves that the land and its crops are the gift of God, a gift they didn't earn or deserve. Using that knowledge, the people of God wanted to say thanks for the abundant gift. This is the model that Christians across

the world and through the centuries have followed. It is a model which supports all of us who are sent to give. It's about giving of time and money as gifts with gratitude and generosity. The giving of each individual became part of the whole story of these people. Over the years, things have changed in the church and will continue to change after all that is the vision of the church of Scotland to be an ever-reforming church. We travel with others on our church life as we live and worship together. We do it for ourselves, but not by ourselves, and we need to offer the best. Our challenge is how we can offer God our best gifts, talents, time and treasure.

God's gift is always to the benefit of community, not individuals. God's gift does not neglect the poor and vulnerable nor does it suffer injustice. If you give, you are making a bigger difference in seeing more justice in the world. Being thankful and giving to allow visions to expand and develop with a cheerful heart, is an important lesson we can all learn from the Bible. Our attitude to what we have can shape us as we think about how we make Christ known to others. We are challenged by this to think around how we give, how much we give and how we give it?

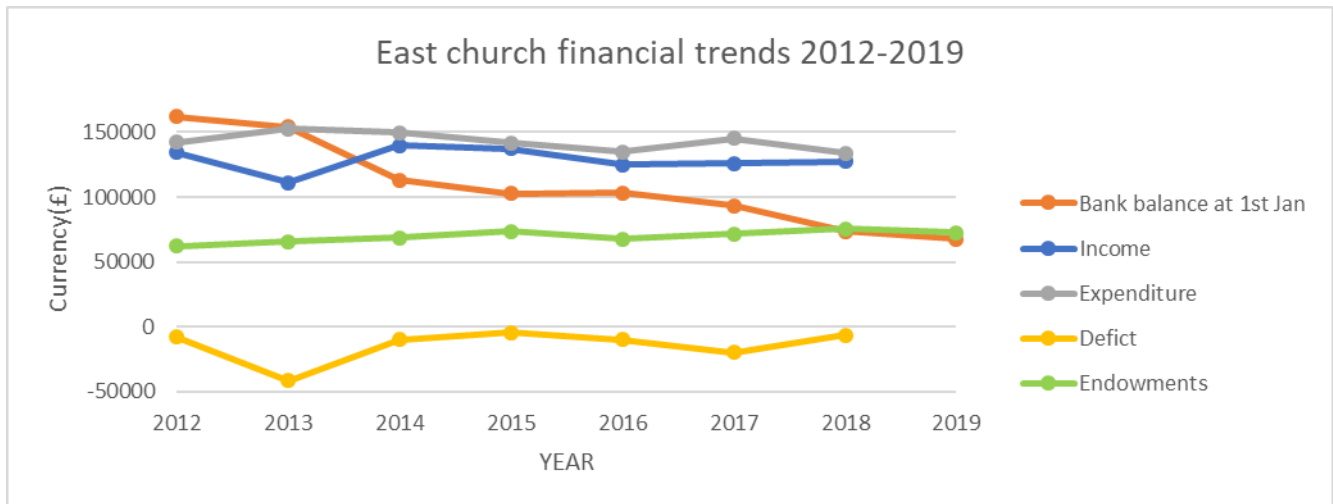
East church financial food for thought and action

Church accounts can look very daunting when you start to read them. Reading them is a bit like weaving a bit of embroidery thread around a pattern. You pop the needle in through a cat's paw on page five and find it sticking out from the middle of a tree on page 8. Yet you know as you continue it will actually make sense when you see the finished picture. Part of the key to decoding church accounts is for one eye to look backwards tracing the thread through history. The funds we spend today are drawn from accounts that were started many years ago. At the East, our financial vision is to increase the funds each year by at least the same amount as we spend.

So how have we got on recently with this aim?

Maybe when you look at your total church funds you wonder what you'd do if you had that amount of money squirreled away and then why the church is continually asking for money and increasing the number of fundraising opportunities and financial appeals. If those thoughts have crossed your mind look more closely at the chart and you'll discover that every year since at least 2012, the East church has run at an income/expenditure deficit. Even though we have reduced expenditure over the last few years It still takes approximately £10000 each month to run the East church, but our income is only £8000 each month. So no, we have not made our target to balance income and expenditure anytime recently.

While churches should not be building extra barns for their wealth, there comes a point where we need to ensure that we have sufficient funds to carry out our work not just on Sunday, not just locally all week in the halls, the schools, the community (40p of each £1 given), but across Scotland and the world (about 60p of each £1 given). Simple arithmetic tells us that we need an extra £2000 each month to meet the essential costs of supporting our vision to know Christ and make him known.



Maybe now you're wondering how we have managed to continue running at a deficit for these years? Well looking back a few years, you can see we had substantial reserves in the bank and it is this money, given by previous generations, that has been supporting our expenditure by covering the deficit. It's the equivalent of around £1.50 for each member a week. We give thanks for the generous giving of previous generations who are subsidising our work today. If you look on the chart you will see how our bank balance at the first of January each year has reduced over the last 7 years. The session feels it is approaching the lowest we would wish it to be. We are conscious of those generous givers from our past who subsidise our work still and would like to be able to offer the same reassuring support to those who come after us by maintaining some level of reserves rather than hand them an overdraft. It's tempting to look at the chart and say yes, but even if those funds touched zero, we would still have £75,000 in endowment funds so why worry? While, we do have this money in endowments, most of it is in restricted funds. Restricted funds are funds that can only be used for specific purposes, and that doesn't include paying the electricity bill.

Turns out that we need funds to continue providing not just worship, weddings and funerals, but all the weekly activities that go on in your church as well as maintain and develop the buildings. To ensure we have the funds we really do need we give you frequent opportunities to help your church live out our vision: to know Christ and make him known through free will offerings, donations, legacies and yes fundraising. While we know that everyone is very generous with their giving and that not everybody can afford an increase in giving, remember that around 300 people each year in Banchory alongside our members benefit from our vision as we ask God for a bigger church to make a bigger difference to the world and that means more people knowing Jesus, more justice in the world and being better equipped to help people in need.

Remember how for two nights in August when it rained and rained and rained, we had a small group of scouts staying in our halls. Why? Because after coming across to London from Germany and travelling by coach up to Aberdeen, they had set off on a sunny day to walk to the Cairngorms. Jago's description of their first few days in Scotland was this. "We only got one Sunny day, then we were sleeping in a tent full of water." Luckily, they met the minister from Echt

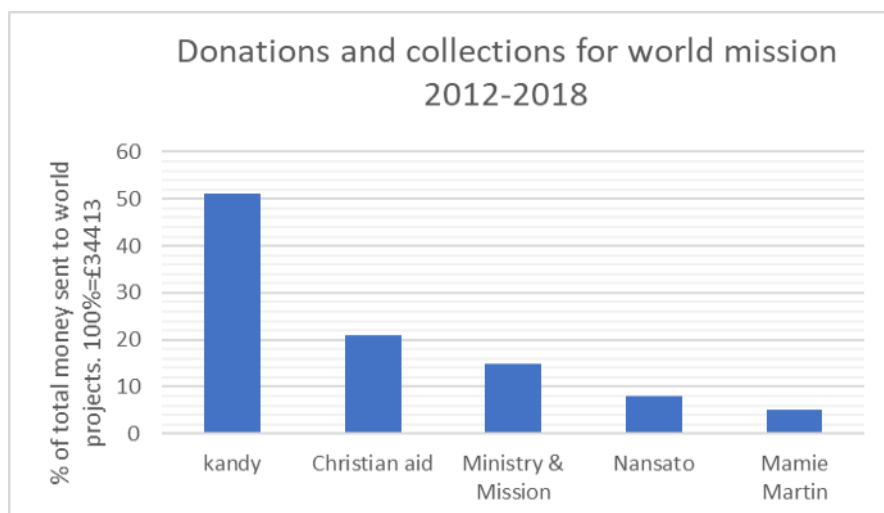
who sent them to our halls to dry out. The scouts were very pleased to shelter from the rain and get to know a little of Banchory before continuing their journey. We could only offer that emergency help because we have the facilities, the hall, the people willing to give time to help, the food we have in our freezers. Our vision in action helping scouts from Dusseldorf. Knowing Christ prepared us to help out (our discipleship if you want the fancy church words) and making him known we helped by serving those in need (part of the mission of the church). But overall we could only do that because of the stewardship of money, skills and time given by you the congregation of the East today but built on the generous giving of time, talents and money of the previous generations of Banchory East.



To Know Christ and make him known-sent to give

World mission support from the East church

The East church is a community church, but at the East when we think community, we mean global, Banchory and beyond. We embrace the world church and the most visible way we provide that support is through our links with the Scot's kirk in Sri Lanka. We have supported the Scot's kirk for many years and over 50% of the money we raise for world mission projects today supports the Scot's kirk and the women's development centre in Kandy. Alongside our support to



Kandy, we also support the work of Christian aid in 40 countries throughout the world and both the Nansato nursery trust and the Mamie Martin fund who work in Malawi. Through our ministries and mission contribution to the central funds of the church of Scotland, we also support the projects of the World mission council of our national church.

In the graph you can see the approximate relative levels of support we provide to each of these areas of church work throughout the world as revealed in our published accounts over the last 7 years. In addition to financial support, we provide prayer support to these projects. Throughout the years we have contributed to a variety of other projects too including Guild overseas projects, the build a house reconstruction appeal in Nepal (£1534) and Barnabas fund for Christians who are suffering because of their faith. This article focuses on financial facts and figures, yet the real stories are of the people. In future editions we intend to focus on stories of the people, places and experiences who receive our money.

Women's development centre, Kandy, Sri Lanka

Prior to the link with Scot's kirk Kandy, the East Church had supported the work of the Women's Development Centre, founded by Mrs Pearl Stephen the wife of a former Pastor of the Scots Kirk.

The Scot's kirk, Kandy Sri Lanka

In August 2004 the General Assembly urged Kirk Sessions to fund partnerships directly with congregations abroad. In April 2006 our Kirk Session agreed that in addition to continued support for the Women's Development Centre, we should concentrate on supporting the

congregation of the Scots Kirk in Kandy along with two other churches, St Margaret's, Glenrothes and Jordanhill Parish Church in Glasgow, who provided support to Kandy. The Scot's kirk, now led by Rev Saman Perera, has a strong emphasis on Mission Outreach. Besides worship they emphasise the services of love and charity towards the needy and marginalised outside the church so that Christ is seen through good deeds. Their outreach work is carried out in at least two remote locations one for Tamil speaking Plantation workers and the other in Sinhala speaking rural communities. To facilitate this work, funds raised by East Church organisations provided missionaries with two motorcycles along with financial Assistance to construct a Community and Worship Centre at Pupurassa/Galaha. We continue to support the Missionary and his family in that particular area besides other outreach projects the church has undertaken in Kandy city such as their work in supporting the families of prisoners in educating their children.



Regular reports have been given over the years to our Kirk Session and to the congregation through the magazine. This ensures that all are kept informed on how we maintain this partnership. Rev. Saman Perera has visited us twice, the last time accompanied by his wife. Margaret Paterson and her husband Cameron visited Kandy during their own holiday to Sri Lanka.

This was reported to the Kirk Session and in an article in the magazine (Summer 2006, p14 available to borrow from our archives. See John Reid for details).

Remember fundraising does not come from our Freewill offering. It has been undertaken by the Tuesday Craft Group since 2008 with support from the Friendship Lunch, the Guild .the Friday Coffee Group ,Tom Toms and occasional retiring offerings. In the early days some funding came from a legacy and the Men's group.

World church through Ministries & Mission payments

Part of the money collected through free will offerings is sent to the central church. Most of this money is paid straight back to the local church as stipends for ministers, but approximately 12p of each £10 is used to support the work of the world mission council all over the world. For the East that has been about £5300 over the last seven years. You can find out more about where this money is spent on the church of Scotland website at www.churchofscotland.org.uk.

Christian Aid

Over the last 7 years, 15% of the money we donate regularly to world aid projects has been to Christian aid. Here is a little more detail of the communities throughout the world that we helped in 2018.

Everyone is equal in the sight of God. Yet we live in a world where poverty and injustice still exist. Christian Aid is motivated by faith believing in the teachings of Jesus Christ who commanded his followers to love their neighbours and work for a better world.

Your Banchory Churches Christian Aid Group is one part of a partnership with people, churches and local organisations in almost 40 countries world-wide committed to ending poverty and injustice. And together, with yourselves and others, giving of your time, gifts and talents we can bring about practical solutions.

Every year during Christian Aid Week we hold a Coffee Morning with baking, book and plant stalls. And every year volunteers generously give of their time and talents. This year the focus of Christian Aid Week was on some of the communities in Sierra Leone where a lack of healthcare

means the country is one of the world's most dangerous places to become a mother. So any money raised was already earmarked to provide better hygiene, health clinics and more medical training.



All those who baked a cake; took in a plant or a book; served the coffees; looked after a stall or were able to attend in support were giving in their own way. Many also contributed by donating money through the Christian Aid Week envelope scheme and just under £2,500 was raised.

But it is not just during Christian Aid Week that our community responds to the needs of our global neighbours. When natural disasters occur it is mainly the poorer in those communities that are

affected the worst - remember Cyclone Idai that devastated communities in Malawi, Zimbabwe and Mozambique. Money raised by you through the Emergency Envelope Scheme has gone towards supplying clean water kits, temporary shelters and medical equipment. Remember also Hurricane

Matthew – your donations have helped to build storm proof shelters in communities where homes were destroyed by the storm that struck Haiti. Christian Aid also has ongoing campaigns highlighting gender inequality; tax avoidance and climate change – all of those issues impact negatively on our global neighbours. With your support we can continue to work for a better world for all.

Nansato

The East church also supports the Nansato nursery trust. For a number of years church groups and individuals have contributed to the work of Nansato nursery trust in Malawi which as the name suggests supports nursery provision in Malawi. You can find more information in the magazine archives. (Summer 2006 and Easter 2007).



The Mamie Martin Fund



This fund started in 1993 by the family and friends of Mamie Martin, to advance the education of girls in secondary school in Northern Malawi. While in Malawi with her husband Jack, a church of Scotland missionary, Mamie became aware of the need for girls and women to have access to education and she used her experience as a teacher to set up classes, with great success. Jack and Mamie are still remembered today in Northern Malawi

and their story is vividly told in *Salt and light*, the book by their daughter, Margaret, based on their letters and diaries. Mamie died in 1928, giving birth to her second child. A visit to Malawi in 1991 by Margaret and John lit the spark for this charity, which was set up in 1993 after discussion with Malawian friends. In partnership with the Synod of Livingstonia, the Mamie Martin Fund has supported more than 650 girls through their secondary education in Malawi. These girls are already passing on this benefit to the next generation and to Malawian society, a lasting legacy in memory of a remarkable woman. You can find more information at www.mamiemartin.org. The connection with Banchory East is through the Orchestra Fund, which was set up by Annette and Bill Borthwick, former members of the East Church. The annual interest received is available for musical training/education. Any of the interest we do not use each year is paid to the Mamie Martin Fund.

Messy Church Holiday Club 2019

The first week of the school summer holidays was the date of our annual Holiday Club for the school children in the parish. As always, the event was well attended. We welcomed around 70 children, not only from the local schools, but from much further afield.



The week consisted of five mornings of entertainment and participation for the children. Each day there was a new bible story which was introduced by one of our team members at the start of the session in the church. We moved on to another year's antics from the hilarious Watt family as we led the children around a bible centred drama story. Both the children and adults always enjoy the drama session, some children don't want to miss a day over the week in case they miss part

of the story. This time the Watt family went Global on an around the world trip as they tried to find Grandma Watt's family painting.

After the drama session the children were split into groups where they followed their chosen activities, with a snack midway through the session. We had a dedicated group of children in the Art and Crafts Group who created many masterpieces including creating a design on a woven bag and constructing Pentecost coloured kites.



The Science Group enjoyed a variety of experiments. This included a week long observation where they investigated the effects of salt on cells. They also created balloon powered cars.

Meanwhile the outdoor group, worked on some team building activities. When the weather was against them, they headed into the church to construct some well-planned structures and towers. The under-school age children and their parents enjoyed a mixed play session with sensory activities and crafts.



All the children finished in the church for a song and to say goodbye for the day. After the session on Friday many of the families joined us for a picnic in the hall as a celebration of the week.

I am pleased to say it was a great success. We brought many children into our church over the week. We gave them a small message from the bible, a tiny piece of Jesus' words to take home with them. Holiday club is a shining example of just how much love our church can bring into the community and very clear indication that church doesn't just happen on a Sunday morning.



Men's Group Report

Christian fellowship and giving has been a lasting and sustaining strand in the many years that our Men's Group has been together.

Formed at the beginning of the seventies the frequency of the meetings, every second and fourth Wednesday evening, bar the summer recess and December, has been maintained. For those statistically inclined, that works out at approximately six hundred meetings.

The members enjoy talks on many subjects with local heritage and local interest being prominent. This forthcoming season, beginning in October, will be much the same with speakers but also some films.



But additional to our meetings, the group have also contributed towards the life and work of the church community, the community at large and also wider afield. Whether by raising money for pew bibles, kitchen and

other equipment, using skills to help renovate the old watchtower in the local churchyard or donating further afield such as to Erskine where long term medical care is provided for veterans of the British Services or the Mercy Ships, a Christian charity that provides vitally needed health services in developing countries, we remember we do everything in His name.

George Montgomery - Men's Group chair

Guild Report

The New session of the Guild begins on Wednesday 4th September, now at the earlier time of 7.00pm and on the first Wednesday of every month. We are having a joint syllabus with the West Church Guild, who will be holding their meetings on the third Wednesday of the month. This is a new venture for us all, but we hope it will be a success, and will be supported by our members. Any change can be daunting at first, but through time we hope we will become accustomed to the new structure.



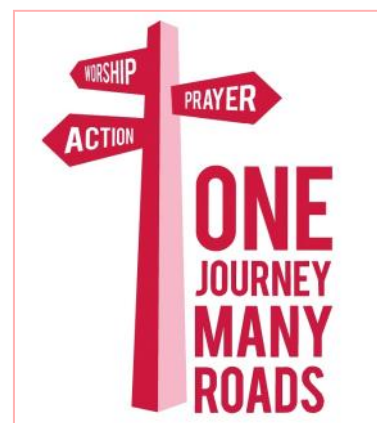
Our first meeting is on 4th September, which will be a fun night as well as paying our subscriptions. Guild week this year is from the 8th to the 15th September, and to celebrate this event, the Guild service will be held on 15th September in the church at

10.30am. There will also be a big Quiz on Saturday 14th September at 7pm. We hope you will be able to join us for this fun night. Tickets can be paid on the door at £4 per person with teams of four, but please let us know in advance if you are joining us.

The syllabus has been completed and will be on display on the Guild board soon. We have an outing to Blairs Museum followed by High Tea. Other dates include flower arranging, hearing about Banchory's Past, and a journey through Scotland. These are a few of the events we are looking forward to.

We would love to welcome new members, so please come along to any of the meetings, where you can be assured of a great welcome and a cup of tea and a 'fine piece.'

Ray Thomson - Convener



Peter the Rock

The last place I left Peter was on the beach, Jesus identifying him as the rock upon which he will build his church. It from this point onwards we see the formation of the early church.

But how? We know the church formed, because here we stand. But really, how did a small mishmash group of followers of one man, proclaimed as the messiah, begin the movement of Christianity? Remember these people are fisherman, farmers, and some women. Non-Greek nobodies. It's astonishing to think that these people could draw the attention of the Roman leaders and finally be represented through Paul and Peter in Rome. For that we need something special.

We read in Luke/Acts that Jesus has gathered his disciples asking them to wait. Here he tells them what is ahead, 'you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.' Jesus is taken up into heaven there in front of them. Leaving them wondering how to fulfil his prediction.

From there they head to Jerusalem. The eleven confused and leaderless. At this very point Peter starts his journey to becoming the man Jesus asks him to be. Peter takes on the role of leader, scripture merely tells us that in those days Peter stood up amongst the believers. It states that the number of followers was about one hundred and twenty people. Standing in front of the crowd Peter begins to preach. The new Peter is revealed. He takes centre stage when conducting the nominations of both Joseph and Matthias to replace Judas. After casting lots, leading to Matthias replenishing the twelve.

This takes us to Pentecost and the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Evidence suggests this takes place around fifty days after the resurrection. The spirit comes down on them like tongues of fire and a loud blowing wind. They all speak in tongues causing a stir amongst the people who are gathered around them. This gives Peter the stage to address the crowd explaining this phenomenal event. Promising that if they come to him, they will baptised into Jesus through the Holy Spirit..

The book of Acts tells us that a massive three thousand are added to their number that day and from here on the group spend time sharing, praying and teaching. But this does not go unseen and without trouble from the Roman leaders who imprison Peter and John. With assistance from angels they make their escape. The following events eventually lead to the stoning of Stephen, the first martyr.

Peter travels around the country. The book of Acts depicts specific healings such as the paralysed Aeneas and the raising of Tabitha. It is then we see the divine interventions to the meeting of Peter and the centurion Cornelius. It is with Cornelius that we see the so far Jewish movement start to include the gentiles (those who are not Jews). A point that causes debate about conversion without circumcision. Peter stands up to argues for the inclusion of gentiles and James it is confirms Gods will. A true turning point where the mission moves to include the gentiles.

It is now that I can take you back to Peter's reinstatement in John 21:18-19 "when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go" Kind Herod arrests James and has him killed by sword. He then arrests Peter and chains him in prison to be put on trial the next day. But an angel of the lord visits Peter and the chains are broken, he is asked to dress and the angel leads him out of prison.

From here the bible tells us little. Peter visits Mary and asks her to tell the other brothers and sisters what had just happened. Peters story ends merely with, 'and then he left for another place.' Where is that place? Its assumed by the lack of Peter in the following scripture that Peter is killed. Texts tell us that he is martyred. Was Peter himself mirroring the suffering servant? Was he really killed upside down on a cross, telling all he was unworthy to die in the same position as his Master, Jesus? To me it certainly sounds like a powerful and fitting end to the story of such an important character. As you see, Peter was the rock upon which Jesus built his church. A rock which sacrificed himself for the word of God. *Sarah*



East Church Archives – Part 6

In this final article covering the period 1910 to 1960, I reach the decades when some people then active in our church are well remembered by some of us still in the congregation. Three fine ministers served, Rev. James Hall to 1920, Rev. John W. Anderson to 1952, and then Rev. J.G. Grant Fleming.

Church life in the period was much affected by the two World Wars, and after the 1914-18 war a dignified memorial was erected in the church listing 52 men from the parish who had died in the fighting. Services to commemorate the signing of the armistice began in Britain in November 1919, and soon these Armistice Services took place on a Sunday. In Banchory the Remembrance Service was felt very important, and our churches united for it; we still have the 1928 printed order of service and note that the choir sang an appropriate anthem.

In 1929 there were two important developments. The United Free Church of Scotland re-united with the established Church of Scotland, so in Banchory our churches were renamed as West and East. This reflected a new geographical division of the streets and houses in the village and surrounding countryside, so in theory the people in each area were expected to belong to that area's church.

April 1940.		
1	Private Andrew Brown	on active service
2	" William J. Calder	"
3	" Hunter Douglas	"
4	" D. Fraser	"
5	" Forbes Mitchell	"
6	" Robert Smith	"
7	Jane Abernethy	
8	Rhoda Henderson	
9	Annie Mc Donald	
10	Flora Mc Donald	
11	Florence Lamb	
12	Jean Wilson	
13	Alexander S. Thomson	
14	William J. Hiven	
15	Alexander Wilkie	
16	Harry Smith	
17	John Boult	
18	John Gibson	
19	James D.C. Mackenzie	
20	Duncan Watson	
21	William Lays	
22	James G. Black	
23	Andrew J. Moss	
24	Eric A. Lough	
25	Mrs Keith	
26	" Annie Paul	

Secondly, and more immediately affecting our congregation, was the addition of a chancel to the church and the removal of the side galleries. The motivations for this were changes in artistic and liturgical opinion, and did not reflect any reduction in the size of the congregation or thought to be likely on the re-unification of the Presbyterian denominations.

The aims of the Presbyterian chancel movement were to add beauty to our churches and to put more emphasis on the communion sacrament, with somewhat less emphasis on preaching; hence pulpits were often placed slightly outside the new chancels so as not to obscure the communion table. Inspiration from the design of English churches and private-school chapels could have motivated some people, but probably more important were local schemes thought successful: Marshall Mackenzie's designs for Craigiebuckler (1883), Crathie (1893) and Cults (1915).

The rebuilding necessitated most of the north wall of the church being taken down, and the Wadsworth organ being moved into a side chamber within the chancel. Our new furniture was most attractively designed, with the same style used for choir pews, organ case, communion table and pulpit. The whole scheme was costly – about £4500, including £476 for rebuilding the organ.

Legacies and gifts from successful Banchory people helped the church finances, such as from James Hunter, the grocer who ran the Montague store, who in 1910 left £250 for the Kirk Session to supply coal to poor members and £150 to buy Sunday School prizes. Another example is the £50 clock given by Mrs Sutherland in 1928, which is now placed on the front wall of the gallery just above the congregation.

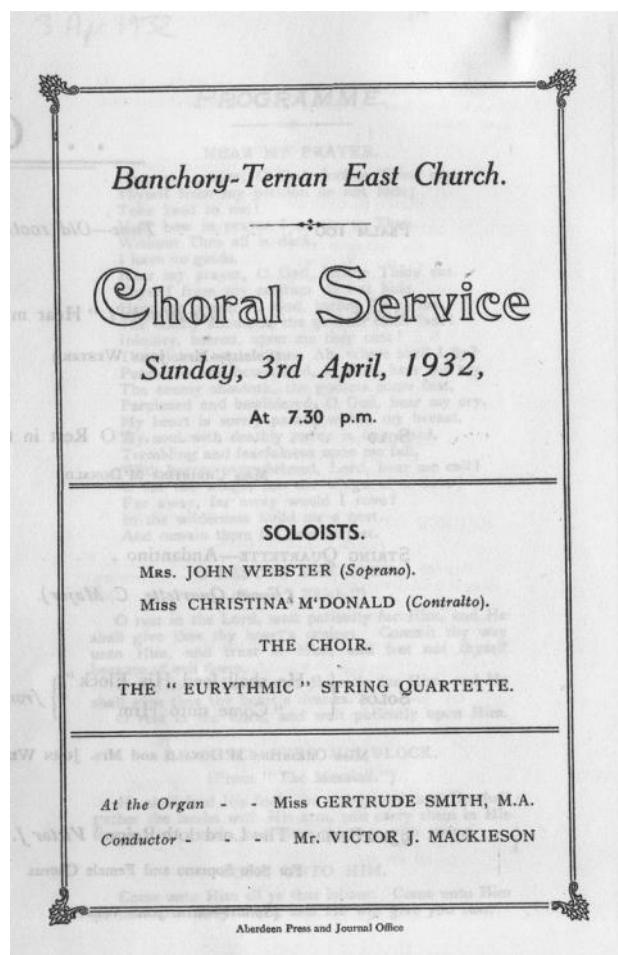
Victor Mackieson had major roles in Banchory music till his death in 1972. He came here as a music teacher in the early 1920s, and by 1924 was the chairman of the Banchory Choral Union. For a concert given in the Town Hall in January 1926, he was listed as accompanist. He became our church organist in 1928, succeeding W.S. Jupp. The choir was substantial in the 1920s, as shown by expenditure items (1922 - £6 8s on Motor for Choir, 1923 - £9 15s for Choir Picnic), but it flourished greatly in the 1930s and 1940s, once the church was finished with rebuilding and having Mr Mackieson bringing in promising academy talent.

A minute book recording choir meetings and activity was begun in 1931. It was decided to

perform H.M.S Pinafore with a small band and a producer brought in from Aberdeen. Permission was obtained from the D'Oyly Carte company, and three performances were given in the Town Hall in October 1932. More normal choir output was ongoing – see the Choral Service programme for a Sunday night in April 1932 reproduced below. In the items listed was an anthem based on Psalm 93 and composed by Victor Mackieson.

The minute book also records Choir Festivals in the early 1950s when choirs from several local churches combined together. These festivals took place on Sunday afternoons in different local churches, with Mr Mackieson often conducting; the maximum numbers reported were 9 choirs for a festival in Torphins North and 130 voices for one in our church.

The second World War caused fewer casualties in our parish than the first war, with only 19 men listed on our memorial. The number of Sunday worshippers seems to have been little affected, and our record book listing first communicants shows that in most years up to 1955 there were 15



to 20 young persons becoming members at both the spring and autumn communions. Some of those joining during the war were stated to be "on active service" (see picture on left).

Once post-war austerity had eased, our congregation, Kirk Session and Rev. Grant Fleming began considering the modernising and rationalising of our church activities. A first step was acquiring a feu alongside the church for a new manse, but the big steps took place out with my final archives period: the new manse was built in 1965, the new church hall was opened in 1976, and the old hall, inconveniently situated in the village, was then closed and sold off in 1988.

David Welch

On behalf of the congregation and the magazine team we would like to thank David for bringing the church history alive for us over the last six articles of the magazine. We are very grateful to him for his dedication and good eyesight while being immersed in the sometimes difficult to read documents which have been gathered from the 1600's to the 1960's.

In place of David's article the next editions will focus on the archives of the magazine. But David will be back with more interesting stories in the future.



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