



# The Ronnecht

Summer Edition 2018



## **Banchory Ternan East Church**

Our Mission

*To know Christ and make Him known*

[www.banchoryeastchurch.com](http://www.banchoryeastchurch.com)

# The Ronecht



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## A message from the Editor

I am delighted to be taking on the role as Editor of 'The Ronecht' Magazine. It's a very different job to my previous one as a Podiatrist, so bear with me till I find



my feet, if you'll pardon the pun! I hope you, the reader, will find the magazine interesting and informative, fun and enjoyable.

The theme of the Summer Edition is Stewardship, 'a way of life in which we recognise that everything belongs to god.' We aim to look at what the Stewardship Campaign involves, why we have a Stewardship Campaign in place at the East Church and how it benefits our Church and wider community. And it isn't all about money .....we look at a very small sample of the many many people within our church sharing their talents, skills and time for the cause. We are so lucky to have so many talented and generous individuals within our church community.

I hope you will enjoy this edition of the magazine and welcome any feedback or ideas for future features/themes anyone should have. Emails are welcome to

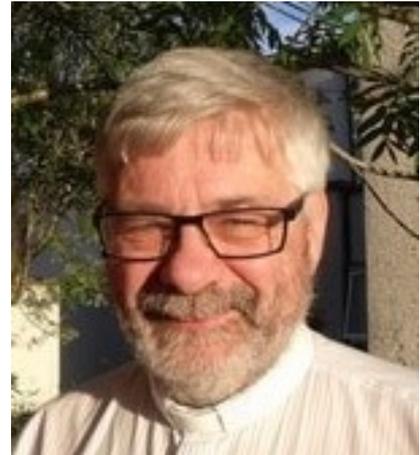
[magazine@banchoryeastchurch.com](mailto:magazine@banchoryeastchurch.com)

Thank you and enjoy,  
Lisa McCombie

## A message from your Minister

Dear Friends

You will probably never meet my friend Matthew, the GP. I haven't seen him for over 20 years. I don't even know his current address. Yet, I do know he has had a remarkable affect on my life. You see Matthew took a risk about 35 years ago. He invited me to lunch one Sunday on the understanding that I would go to church with him. Always one for a free meal, I went along and now find myself so thankful to Matthew for taking a minute of his time to invite me to share in his life that Sunday.



What about you? Who invited you to church or maybe back to church? Your parents, a friend – your equivalent of my friend Matthew? As you flip through this edition of our magazine, maybe you'll discover something new about a familiar church face or discover an event that you will enjoy supporting. Don't just stop there though. Re-read the magazine slowly, looking out for the event you would invite a friend to; after a suitably refreshing meal perhaps. Maybe you do just that regularly or maybe like most of us, this is new territory to tread. There are many reasons why people don't come to church or have stopped coming to church. As you read, ask yourself what might you choose to invite one or two representatives of the following groups of people to? Remember the church doesn't just gather on Sunday. As the magazine shows, church happens every day of the week.

How about someone who hasn't 'done' church for many years?

Or someone who feels their children are too noisy?

Or someone who feels they have too many doubts and questions?

Or someone who has never been to church and has no idea what to do?

Having decided what would be suitable, go on take the risk, invite someone along. Remember, we've seen it all before in the church because once upon a time we were like the people on the list above, weren't we and then someone called Matthew or (Insert the relevant name for you here) took the risk and the time to invite each of us to church and now look at us. If you were to step into Matthew's shoes, what would you invite someone along to? Go on, issue the invitation.

Your minister,

Alan

# Church Noticeboard

## Baptism

Struan James Barclay  
McCombie on 25.03.18

Here is Struan with his parents  
Lisa and Scott McCombie and  
his God parents Hugo and  
Karen Retailaeu



## Congratulations!

Donna Cormack and Bobby Webb are  
pleased to announce the safe arrival of

**Shelby Barbara Margaret Webb**

On 15th March weighing 8lb 3oz

Donna and Bobby would like to thank  
everyone for their gifts and warm wishes

We are all looking forward to Shelby's  
baptism on Sunday 12th August

## Rice Challenge

We sold 47 bags of rice to  
help pay for the school  
fees of a Malawi farmers  
child. Well done to  
everyone involved.



# Church Noticeboard

## Special Birthdays

Happy 60th Birthday

Rev. Alan Murray

18.03.18

Happy 80th Birthday

Elma Ogg

20.03.18

Also pictures Pat Thain  
and Iain Brown



## Rag Bag

Did you know that each time the rag bag in our carpark is emptied we get around £74. Don't forget to put your unwanted clothes and textiles in to help raise funds for our Church



## William Moir

William recently transferred his lines to the East Church and has jumped straight in. He is a great asset to our choir and always first on hand to help at choir practice.

Welcome to the East Church William!



# Church Noticeboard

## Family Beetle Drive

On April 27th we held a family Beetle Drive to raise funds for the church. It was brilliant success and we managed to raised a fantastic £230.

Everyone had a brilliant time with our two winners being Mary Forbes and Dhugan McCombie.

A big thank you to everyone involved!



## Scots Kirk Kandy

We received some brilliant news recently. A new generation to maintain the link between our church and our partner church in Sri Lanka.

The ministers Grandson, Keshan.  
Congratulations on their new arrival.

# Stewardship

Stewardship is the all-round name for giving within our church, giving joyfully for the sacrifice God gave for us. God asks us to give freely and unselfishly. We are all stewards of God, and our elements of giving are not only personal but a private commitment between ourselves and God.

Stewardship focuses on giving in three different areas, time, money and talent. Every year we focus on one of the three aspects. This year it is money. The money used to build and run our church. To give support to our community, our nation and our world through the church.

The Stewardship campaign asks for an increase in sustainable giving from each of us to allow the good work carried out at the East Church to continue as we serve our congregation and community. Setting up a standing order is an easy way to ensure regular giving.



The whole congregation was sent an invitation to a Stewardship event held in February this year. The event aimed to highlight the areas where we need help. One person who attended comments that 'it was a very well organised event where all groups within the church demonstrated how the church serves our community and how in fact the money donated is used'.

At our recent congregational meeting, the session Clerk, Mike Jamieson reminded us that 'Christian giving is not about what we use ourselves, but what we give away.' You can hear Mike's report on our website at [www.Banchoryeastchurch.com](http://www.Banchoryeastchurch.com).

Henri Nouwen, wrote 'When we seek funds, we don't say please could you help us out because lately it's been hard, but we do say we have an amazing, exciting vision and we invite you to invest in this yourself through the resources that God has given you.' Hopefully, we will be encouraged to give our time, money and talents to carry out this work.

Alongside stewardship we also hold one-off fundraising events. Fortunately, we are a congregation of very talented and generous people who regularly devote their time and skills to raise income to support our church. Fundraising events like 'The £10 Challenge', Beetle drives, coffee mornings, lunches, children's groups, adult's groups and Jumble Sales harness the God given skills of our wonderful congregation to raise money so that the church functions to its highest potential.

'There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.' 1 Corinthians 12 4-6.

We welcome anyone willing to utilise their talents to enhance their stewardship to God. Check out the 3 short videos featuring the experience of 3 different congregations on money, time and talents. [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk).

# How do you see yourself as God's steward?

## Mary Paris' Story

There has been a lot of focus in Church lately on Stewardship and to many people that means just giving money, but there are so many other ways to support our church and help it grow into a close-knit family.

For some time, I have been one of the kitchen helpers at Tom-Toms on a Monday morning and very much enjoy the opportunity it gives me to get to know the young mums and their children. They are a lively group, busy too, and so many pop their head

in the kitchen door as they leave to say 'thank you'. More helpers are always needed.

You could join us in the choir if that is where your talent lies. Don't say you would sing wrong notes, that's my role. The flower committee always welcomes new people with a talent for flower arranging or willing to observe and learn.

Of the groups I'm involved in, perhaps the

pastoral care group is the one you know least about. As well as visiting housebound members on a regular basis, we are probably better known for our twice-yearly tea and music events. If you haven't been to one of our events yet, come along in October and enjoy an afternoon out. If you'd like to help out at one, speak to Isobel Brown.

As an off shoot of the pastoral care group, Morag Paar and I visit Glen o' Dee every week. These visits began in 2006 when we started visiting our church members only. When Woodend hospital changed its roll and Glen o' Dee began to serve Garlogie, Westhill and all areas from there to Banchory, the kirk session made the decision to extend visits to all in Morven ward as there is no public transport from the outlying areas to Banchory.

Many people in Glen o' Dee say what a lovely idea this is and enjoy the afternoon visits. Morag and I are regularly greeted in the corridor by someone saying "you're from the church. I remember you from when I had the other hip done" or similar comments. We have made so many friends over the years-some are frequently hospitalised and others we come across in our daily lives. We feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to be there for them.

Mary Paris



# How do you see yourself as God's steward?

## George Montgomery's Story

Having been blessed with much in my life before I retired to Banchory in 2012, I have also been blessed to be able to give of my time and hopefully make a difference in the lives of our congregation, our community and our faith. That time is spent in several ways varying from quite formal to very informal and includes the following:



Becoming an elder and involved in the work of the Kirk Session; being a member of the congregational Board with specific involvement on the Property and Communication Committees. Being a member of The Worship Engagement Committee and participating from time to time in Sunday services and also services at Bellfield and Dalvenie. Helping with the preparation and projection of the overhead displays at Church Services. For the past three years I have also been privileged to be President of the East Church Men's Group.

Less formal participation in the life of the church involves helping with Messy Church; transport for church members on Sunday mornings and doing a bit of 'art work' from time to time for the display sign for Friendship Lunches and other events. Still connected with the church, but with a wider remit, I am also able to help with Christian Aid as current Chair of the Banchory Churches Christian Aid Group. I help as one of several walk leaders with Walk To Health Groups, and as a Macmillan Volunteer link for the walk groups.

Out with the above, I am able to help on the management committee and as a lead and volunteer co-ordinator with the Aberdeenshire South Foodbank. I'm also a member of the local Probus Men's Group and assist as the welfare convenor and one of their walk leaders.

## Can you help with planning? Do you have a fundraising idea?

The Fundraising Planning Group have been set up to plan a range of events in conjunction with other members of the congregation in order to raise funds for the church.

Recently, a questionnaire was issued to the congregation to gauge interest in a number of events - the most popular events included coffee morning, quiz and soup lunch and these are all being planned. However, more events will follow and it would be good to have some additional members in the planning group to help with the initial planning stages and also to generate more ideas.

If you think could you could help, even for a short time, or would like to suggest a fundraising idea, then please get in touch with Mike Jamieson (see contacts).

## Giving your talents to help raise money

As you will have read a large part of Stewardship is giving your time and talents. One way of doing this is by participating in our £10 challenge. When you start the challenge you are given £10. You need to take this £10 as a starting fund to raise more money.



The challenge is to see how much you can make your £10 grow. Last years £10 challenge was a huge success. With 10 people taking on the challenge. The total raised was just over £900. Some of the biggest success stories have shared their experience.

### £10 Challenge Success Stories

#### Melanie and John Wills

John and I love the idea of the £10 challenge as we see it as an easy way for everyone to give something back to our Church. Being trampolining coaches we decided to put on some "fun" trampolining sessions - not that all our sessions are not fun! We have done this in the past to raise funds for several groups, including Church ones. Normally we would

hire the hall and pay for it and then invite our club and waiting list to come and participate for a fee. This was however a wee bit different. As it was a challenge and our starting point was £10 we could not "afford" to hire the hall with that - the cost was £15.00 per hour. We bought sweets and, as it was the last week of the school term before Christmas, sold bags of sweets for 50p. We let our members know what we were doing and why and they really supported us. We sold £72 worth of sweetie bags! With this money we hired the hall and put on 2 sessions of trampolining during the Christmas holidays. We asked our



senior members who are coaches if they would give their time freely to help at this event and they did. Everyone who came had a great time and we raised just over £400.00 in doing so.

We would urge everyone within the Church to accept this challenge. Even if £11 is returned you will have raised some funds for our Church. You never know you might even enjoy it - we did!

#### Ellis Flett's Story

Hi, my name is Ellis and I took part in the recent £10 challenge for the church where I had to grow £10 into as much money as I could over a short period of time. So, I hear you ask, why would I do something like that being a busy 11 year old? Well, I really enjoy baking and I also enjoy going to the teas and coffees after church on a Sunday to try other people's baking so I thought it could be a good way to raise some money doing something I liked. I assessed my sales market very carefully and decided that mums work was a safe one - they LOVE cakes and home baking so I quickly got an order of custard creams (cash up front!). So I baked my first batch and sent them in with mum for the taste test. Well, it turns out they enjoyed them so much, I

immediately got a repeat order! Indeed, I started to get requests with their favourites definitely being custard creams and brownies.

As I was doing a lot of baking, I got to spend a lot of time with my mum. We worked together on some of the cakes - I would measure, she would mix. She was also very good at keeping me right and correcting any mistakes, it was all round good fun and she

was an excellent teacher. My favourite (and best) bakes were custard creams, guided by a recipe from my great auntie. Mums speciality was brownies, but she got help from Mary Berry!

As well as spending time with my mum, I got to meet more people within the church. I recently started talking with Eileen for example after my brother bought one of her lovely hats. We now have a chat most Sundays at the tea and coffee following the church service which is nice. I hope you liked my story, please let me know if you have any baking requests and I can see what I can do! Thanks for reading, Ellis x



As well as the efforts of Ellis, John and Melanie, we had people selling knitted hats, cushions and word quizzes. With two of the participants holding their £10 until the summer.

## Church Sunflower Competition

The Grant boys are next on the challenge. Steven, Stuart, Scott, Lewis and Cameron are organising a Sunflower Competition.

For £5 you can purchase your potted sunflower seedling as entry into the competition. With all your green fingered magic you are challenged to grow the tallest sunflower. A team of independent measuring experts will come along and submit your height. When everyone has been measured the winner will receive a prize.

Your entry can be purchased at the Sunflower coffee morning on Saturday 12th May, and at the next two Sunday morning services. Or you can email the magazine team to request your seeding at [magazine@banchoryeastchurch.com](mailto:magazine@banchoryeastchurch.com)



As you can see the challenge was a huge success and it is still going strong. The original £100 was donated so there was no use of church funds to start the challenge. From now on the starting fee will be pulled from the existing pot of money raised.

The next challenge is '£10 for 10 weeks' and will run from 17th June to 26th August.

Do you have an idea to make your £10 grow? Do you want to join the challenge?

Contact Mike by email at [mike.jamieson@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.jamieson@btinternet.com)

# Diary dates

## JUNE

Saturday 9th—Family Quiz 7-9pm

A quiz night for all the family,

Thursday 21st—Crafty Church, 1-3pm

Thursday 28th—Friendship Lunch, 12-1pm

Monday 25th—Messy church, 3.30-5.30pm

Crafts, games and activities for primary children

Saturday 30th - Kids Kirk Congregational Picnic

## JULY

Monday 9th to Friday 13th - Messy Church Holiday Club

We are going on a Jungle Jamboree!

Thursday 19th - Crafty Church, 1-3pm

Thursday 26th—Friendship Lunch 12-1pm

## AUGUST

Friday 10th August - Wedding Donna Cormack and Bobby Webb

Thursday 16th—Friendship Lunch, 12-1pm

Saturday 25th - Wedding, Paul Montgomery and April Neish

# Useful Contacts

**Minister—Rev. Alan Murray,**

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[banchoryeastchurchoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:banchoryeastchurchoffice@btconnect.com)

**Session Clerk—Mike Jamieson,**

01330 822712, [mike.jamieson@btinternet.com](mailto:mike.jamieson@btinternet.com)

**Youth Cordinator—Chloe Spencer,**

07432 158163, [youthcoordinator.banchory@gmail.com](mailto:youthcoordinator.banchory@gmail.com)

**Rookies—Mollie Wheeler and D'arcy Holt**

**Director of Music—Muriel Welch,**

01330 822571, [welcmd@gmail.com](mailto:welcmd@gmail.com)

**Clerk to the Board—Stan Thomson,**

01330 825098, [stanthomson@hotmail.com](mailto:stanthomson@hotmail.com)

**Church Treasurer—Helen Carberry,**

01330 824409, [carberry@talktalk.net](mailto:carberry@talktalk.net)

**Church officer— Douglas Ogg, 01330 825426**

**Magazine Editor—Lisa McCombie,**

[magazine@banchoryeastchuch.com](mailto:magazine@banchoryeastchuch.com)

**Scottish Charities No. SC011251**

## Eileen Riach—Bookkeeper, Guide and knitter

On Sundays, Eileen has moved seat recently. The reason gives us a glimpse of Eileen's caring, determined nature. 'It was my sticks, people found them a nuisance to manoeuvre round. And yes', she laughs, 'being nearer the door to the hall is also useful. I'm more likely to be first for coffee.'

Eileen has been in Banchory for many years now. When I visit, two dogs next door ensure I do not arrive unannounced. Eileen moved to Banchory from the long-closed branch of the Clydesdale bank at Sauchen, Eileen was born in Castly Cary, no not near Glasgow, near Yeovil in Somerset. Sitting with Eileen in 2018, she takes me back to wartime England by describing the sound of bombers heading off to France and Germany. Tells me of the noise. 'it was the noise overhead as all those planes flew over.'



A career pause is a modern idea, but Eileen, like others of her generation, had to pause her career as an accountant/bookkeeper for a local furniture and removal firm with branches in Yeovil and Castle Cary, to join the ATS. Precision is important to Eileen. She was part of the ATS for 3 years 9 months. Eileen would have preferred to join the navy. Unfortunately, the only vacancies in the navy were for cooks and while Eileen has baked many a perfect pancake and scone, she didn't want to contemplate naval cooking so it was the ATS that Eileen joined.

She tells me that she can't talk about her war work. She does, though, tell me that there was much saluting. 'Every time you walked from one building to another, every officer had to be saluted'. Eileen's worked alongside her team. She didn't just delegate the difficult jobs to others.



One day Eileen left her hut and realised that she, with her one stripe, was the most senior person around and it fell to her to issue the commands to get everyone marching to work. 'How my friend and I laughed after that. You see my friend knew just how nervous I was.'

But just how did Eileen get from Southern England to Sauchen? Surprisingly, the answer is via the Mediterranean and Elgin. It was on a cruise with some friends that Eileen met

her husband to be, Bill. Next, Eileen tells me a little about her life in Elgin where Bill worked in one of the three Clydesdale bank branches. Banking back then seems to have been different from today. While Bill got on with ensuring the bank ran properly, the actual bank manager was one of the solicitors in the law practice upstairs.

Eileen was a guide at Crathes castle for many years. As the guides retired they joined Eileen for coffee and a catch up at the garden centre. Eventually the group expanded to include friends of the guides. Eileen is very thankful to Mary Paris for driving her each week. Mary's name pops up more than once during our conversation as Eileen reminds me just how much Mary does help her. Mary is thankful too for all the help Eileen gave her when she started to help with our church finances but discovered that the treasurer had died just the week before. Eileen reminded Mary of which job to do and when.

We all know Eileen as a bit of a knitter. She knitted hats for our recent fundraiser, the £10

challenge, but most of her hats are knitted to help seamen keep their heads warm while at sea. Just last week, Eileen had a quick count up and discovered that over 3 or 4 years, she has knitted 300 hats. She has a lovely picture of the day she went to Montrose to hand her last batch over to the port chaplain for distribution. They are certainly appreciated.

Coming to the last question I have on my list, I ask Eileen if she is musical. Not really, 'I played the piano for short while', she says, 'but one Christmas I did get a lovely phone call from a shop on the Isle of Wight so that I could hear one of my daughters playing Christmas carols on her harp.'

### **Ella Egan-teacher, fisher and fundraiser**

I'm sitting in the manse talking to Ella Egan. She is telling me of two people, Mikhail Gorbachev and Gary Barlow, who made an impression on her. I didn't find out why Gorbachev featured on her list, but Ella met Gary Barlow at No 10 Downing street, where Gary thanked Ella for telling him he was taller than he appeared on television. What a charmer.

Ella arrived in Banchory from Cults via 10 years in Ballater. Church wise, she attended a brethren Sunday school, joined St Marks in Aberdeen, was married to David by Hamish Fleming and has been with us ever since.

On 18 August 1974, Robert Redford's 38<sup>th</sup> birthday, Ella started teaching at Aboyne Academy. 'It was a bit of a building site when I started', she cheerfully reveals. Over 30 years, Ella provided advice to new teachers 'walking on the ice' of that first job. No wonder Ella sends 300 Christmas cards each year. Thank goodness for modern stamp technology.

What do you need to teach, I ask Ella? 'Just like life, you need a sense of humour and a grasp of discipline', she replies. 'It's all about survival of the fittest as I used to tell my new classes; I've been here over 30 years, you are new.' For Ella teaching is a vocation. There is such joy when someone who has struggled with the finer points of English literature suddenly understands. The hugs she still receives on Banchory high street from former pupils are evidence her approach worked.

When Children in Need started in 1988, Ella introduced an annual fundraiser and by her final year, Ella had raised £78000. That year she



issued a challenge to raise £10000. By declaring this impossible, a colleague spurred the pupils to raise Ella's career-cumulative, total fundraising figure to £100,000. Ella is a joy to listen to. When she speaks you don't get just facts, you are left with concise pen portraits of her subject. She describes an evening at BBC Glasgow as a

celebration and Jackie Bird as ridiculously tall and thin.

Onwards then to Downing street. Now, as Ella talks, I see not just the size of the various



rooms visited, but the shape and height of the windows, the dramatic colours schemes and how it feels to walk up that famous staircase lined with pictures of former Prime Ministers. Yet Ella has a critical eye. She will tell you what she thinks; whether it is about the hand shake of a former prime minister (weak), his wife Samantha's (firm), the temperature of the room in which speeches were delivered (cold) or even the quality of the nibbles on offer (the vilest, I'd ever seen). As she left Downing street, the bobby said, 'You're first to leave.' 'Yes well, I've got to meet my husband,' said Ella 'and I didn't like the nibbles'. 'Ah,' replied the bobby, 'my wife came here once and told me after she'd rather have a bag of crisps.'

Say Ella's name and I think fishing, I knew that she had met her husband, David, in the middle of a river on holiday but how did she start fishing? A friend had phoned school because he'd forgotten his flask of coffee. Would she bring some? Certainly, said Ella. The next day she returned to the river, marked books and watched the fishing in peace and quiet. Soon Ella caught her first salmon, just beside the backdoor to Balmoral, in a pool named 'Polmonoier.' It is now the name that heads Ella's column in Trout and Salmon magazine.

## Stan Thomson's Story

I have been lucky and blessed to have been able to lead a life where I have experienced many things including being able to serve my country.

As a young man I joined the army where I trained as and served as a 'Tracked and Armoured Recovery Engineer'. Working on various types of large tracked and wheeled vehicles, armoured wheeled vehicles, and many more. Many a time while out on winter exercises, on the German ranges, I dozed off at 4am-ish and woke up frozen to the



ground underneath a tank, or on top of a 'Centurion' engine with two or three inches of snow on me – hard times but great memories!



Pictured Stan sleeping

While I was in the Army I met Ray, my dear wife. Returning home by train from London, on Army leave, after taking part in exercises in the South of France where I was in hospital with sunstroke. Ray was on the same train, returning from a holiday. We were introduced by an old gent, who neither of us knew. The weather and that old 'gent', both have a lot to answer for!

During my life in the Army I was mainly stationed in Germany, but I also did a tour of active service in Cyprus, attached to the United Nations peacekeeping force. After nine years in the army I left to work in civvy street as an engineer before joining the City of Glasgow police force. I became a detective early in my police career. As well as a Divisional CID officer, I worked in undercover squads in the Govan and Gorbals areas of Glasgow. I also had a three-year secondment to the 'Scottish Crime Squad', where

my work took me all over Scotland, and beyond. My latter years in the police were spent attached to the 'Strathclyde Police Serious Fraud Squad'.

Twenty-five years after joining the police, due to ill health, I retired to Banchory to be closer to family. I then became a member of our church, here at Banchory East, and I am pleased to say, I have had the opportunity to be involved in many ways. I am an Elder and member of the Kirk Session and Conveners Group. I am Clerk to the Congregational Board and member and minute taker of the Church Property Committee. I am one of a small team who prepare and project the display for Sunday morning worship and at other services. When I am not projecting I sing as a tenor in the church choir. I also deal with the administration side of the church Facebook page and BTEC website. Regularly updating the site and adding the weekly recordings of the services, prayers and sermons.

Out with the church, I participate in the community as Choir Rep in the Banchory Singers, Chairman of 'Banchory Paths Association', a Leader and Coordinator of the Banchory Walking To Health Group, liaising with such organisations as the 'NHS' and 'Paths for All', an organisation which oversees all the Scottish Health Walks. I am also a past President and current Secretary of 'ProBus'. An organisation of retired professional and business men.

I enjoy being involved within the church and the community and am blessed with the ability to be able to do so.

## Crafty Church

Crafty Church is an activity loosely based on Messy Church, though mainly for adults, but all and anyone turning up will be assured of a very warm welcome. With much friendship gained through a degree of active participation and engaging Christian fellowship.



Mimicking Messy Church we usually have some kind of Devotional with which we commence before starting the activity which can be crafty in the first sense of using your hands to make something, eg Christmas decorations or dragon's eggs or collages, or Crafty in the meaning of devious, perhaps involving Doric poems, musical appreciation, quizzes or even bingo, but

whatever the activity, there is much fun and fellowship to be had and participation is all part of the action whether you think you have the capability or not, you soon find through some trial and some error that indeed you can!

Perhaps we then have a sing song, but whatever, there is always time for a cuppa, chat and a fancy piece!

Do come along. Do give it a try. You won't be sorry to give a couple of hours on the third Thursday in the month, between 1-3pm.

Charles Robertson

## East Church Choir

We have 19 members at present, including two who are only able to come occasionally due to working hours or distance and about 13 attend on most Sundays. Our aims are to encourage the congregational singing and also to add variety to the worship by providing appropriate music relating to the theme of the service.



We have recently changed from weekly practices on a Thursday evening, to having an evening practice about once a month, at which we make a start on a few new songs and anthems for future weeks. Instead we now meet at 10am on Sunday mornings and rehearse an introit or anthem for that day and also look at any less familiar hymns, and practice the harmony's. This seems to be working well so far, and has the advantage that those rehearsing are the same members singing that morning. But most of the choir do enjoy the occasional evening practice, and also the chance of a good chat afterwards, (sometimes we have to briefly dim the lights

to send the message that home awaits!) and attendance is good. They are a friendly group who look out for each other, and we are fortunate at present to have several singers to each part.

We are always happy to welcome new members, and while we are very grateful for the commitment of those who attend regularly, there is also a place for those who enjoy singing but can only come occasionally. So do ask if you're interested.

Muriel



## Mental Health Awareness Week

14th—20th May 2018

Mental Health Awareness Week is organised and supported by the Mental Health Foundation. Each year it focuses on a different aspect of mental health. In 2018 the focus is on stress.

We are increasingly aware of the issues surrounding mental health and really beginning to make a difference. Each year over 16 million people suffer from mental health problems. One of the biggest contributing factors is stress. Tackling the causes of stress can not only help with anxiety and depression but has been shown to help reduce the incidence of self-harm and suicide.

In support, we were chosen to host a funded Wellness Lunch on Thursday 17th May. The event was a huge success with support from various companies and support groups for mental health awareness. A big thank you to everyone involved.



## Spring Reflection

The arrival of spring has been late this year. The weather has been impossible. Not only did I endure the chocolate fast of Lent, we endured the elements. The lambing and calving persisted throughout the weather. The farm endures regardless. The battle only intensified. Its easy to be disheartened when the storms are battering your doors. Late night lambing checks burdened by the cold. Heat lamps everywhere. Straw bales blocking the wind from howling into the sheds. Anyone would be forgiven for thinking we had been abandoned.

Only two weeks before the storms, the snowdrops had emerged. But the snow lay as a blanket over that glimmer of life. Daily I walked past the snowdrop stretch. Still they lay hidden. Daily I was disappointed. But slowly the blanket subsided, quickly replaced by the rising water. All around us the endless puddles. The ditches overflowing, and the fields saturated. I had all but given up on the appearance of



spring. I had forgotten the white hope. Then one day I stopped to look at the snowdrop stretch, expecting to see the shady brown water. But to my surprise, beneath the surface of a large flooded stretch, there stood the snowdrops. It was startling to see. Even beneath the flood water, the tiny white flowers stood strongly. They were difficult to see, but there they were. A pillar of strength.



As the water levels dropped the snowdrops became easier to see. They stood firm and upright, even after the battering of the storms.

The snowdrop stretch lies beneath the shadow of a mighty Oak in the grounds of Crathes Castle. Masses of tiny white flowers spread though the leaf litter.

Perhaps a surprising rival to the beauty of the Oak. Even under the shadow of a giant they spread their infectious glory. The day I discovered them, I discovered the hope of spring. I saw the shadow in a different light.

The snowdrops are an uncanny resemblance to my journey into the church. I didn't see the snowdrops at first. They were hidden from me. There, but too difficult to see. I didn't see God in my life. He was there, but he was too difficult to see. I stopped to look one day, and I saw the snowdrops, under the water. Still very difficult to see. Their glory masked by the water. When I stopped to look, I saw God in my life. His glory wasn't obvious to me. But he was there, under the surface. Then the water subsided, and the glory of the tiny, strong, white flowers was abundantly evident. I could see them everywhere I looked. The next time I looked at my life, the church had pulled back the flood water. I could see the glory of God everywhere. The glory spreading infectiously under the shadow of the mighty Oak. God crept into my life like a snowdrop emerging from beneath the snow. Now that I have stopped to look, I can see the glory all around.

Sarah x

## World Mission

### Christian Aid Week, 13th—19th May 2018

For over 70 years Christian Aid has been changing the lives of people living around the world in poverty. This year Christian Aid Week is focusing on raising money to help build sustainable houses for those who have suffered the destruction of their homes due to the weather. #StandTogether to weather the future storms.

In support of Christian Aid week we hosted a 'Big Brekkie' Just before Sunday morning worship on 20th May.

You can donate to the cause online at; [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)



### Tuesday Crafts in aid of Kandy

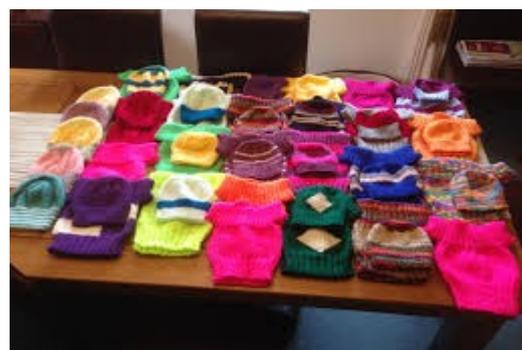
The Tuesday Craft Group started 10 years ago to supply birthday cards to send to children Baptised in the East Church and for cards for the Pastoral Care Group. This developed rapidly to making and selling goods to sell for the benefit of World



Mission projects. The principal recipient is our Partner Church, the Scot's Kirk in Kandy Sri Lanka in their outreach work among prisoners and developing new congregations in outlying districts.

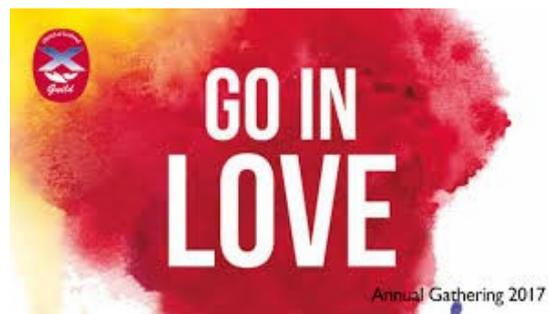
Donations were also given to the Women's Development Centre in Kandy, Christian Aid and the Church of Scotland appeal to support the rebuilding of homes in Nepal following the earthquake. The Barnabus organisation was supported to benefit persecuted Christians, and many jumpers knitted for the 'Fish and Chip' babies.

We have four regular members who meet every second week in the church hall, from 2pm to 4pm, with two others contributing from home. We would welcome new members to joins us. Knitting, sewing, crocheting , beadwork or any other craft skill. Everyone will be welcomed warmly.



## Guild Report

This year our session theme was 'Be Bold, Be Strong, Go in Love'. We had a brilliant syllabus but it was unfortunate that due to inclement weather conditions, two of our speakers had to cancel. However, the AGM went well. We allocated our funds and selected new committee members, as three of the committee were



retiring. Thanks were expressed to the committee and the Guild members for their dedication and support over the last session.

Two of our ladies, Nora Esslemont and Eldie Ewen, were due to be presented with long service certificates and badges, for fifty years as Guild members, but unfortunately Nora, who was ill, could not attend. However, there will be a presentation to Nora, when we resume in the autumn, and we will organise a photo shoot. Congratulations and thanks to you both!! The evening concluded with excellent entertainment from two ladies of the Ballater Singers.

We have exciting and challenging times ahead, as the new strategy for the next three years is "One journey, many roads" with our theme for next session, "Seeking the Way." One of the facts of the Christian life is that we



are all on a journey, and the roads we follow can have many twists and turns for each of us.

We are looking forward to preparing the new syllabus as we explore together the different roads we walk, as we "Seek the Way."

The Guild will start back in October, when we can't wait to see everyone. And we take this opportunity to invite new faces along to join us too. You are sure of a warm welcome.

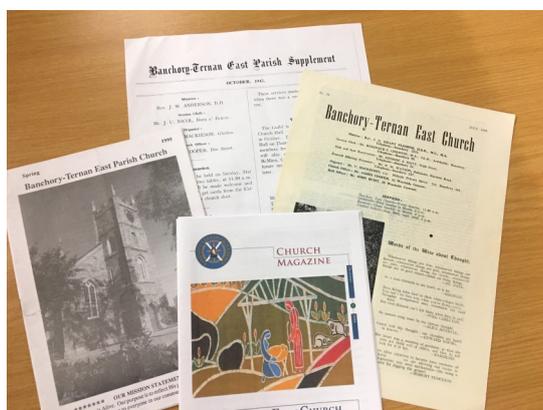
Ray Thomson and Pat Thain

## East Church Archives. Part 1.

This is the first of what I hope will be several magazine articles about our older church archives. Several boxes of them were dispatched to National Records Scotland in Edinburgh in autumn 2016 so that they can be properly looked after and catalogued.

A few years ago I discovered to my surprise that a chest in the church tower contained documents dating back to the 1600s. Clearly successive session clerks had gathered them, and maybe in Victorian times had put the papers away in a box. Afterwards they were forgotten.

Lists of key documents had been made in 1747 and 1758, and remarkably most of these were still present. But many unlisted small sheets had become loose, the strings of their bundles having broken, e.g. receipts from trainee clergy who had taken services and then acknowledged payment.



Banchory parish (church, hospital, minister, school teachers) lost out badly from the end of the Stuarts as monarchs; a story that ought to be in local histories. Mortifications (bequeaths in perpetuity) had been set up in the mid 1600s to finance these Banchory institutions, but unfortunately the money had been put in the hands of the Frasers, lairds of Durris - banks didn't exist in Scotland at this time. Alexander Fraser was prospering then, becoming physician to Charles II after training as a doctor in

Aberdeen, and Alexander's son Charles was also employed by Charles II. Clearly the Royal money benefitted Deeside, the most obvious sign being the Brig o' Dye which the Frasers erected about 1680.

However, once the Stuart dynasty ended, the Fraser estate became insolvent, and payments to Banchory ceased. This precipitated events causing legal battles between the Frasers and the heritors of the big Banchory estates and I believe it led to a knock-on bankruptcy for the Burnetts of Crathes. It certainly caused much work for accountants and scribes.

The Frasers first tried to sort the problems in 1700 by allowing two tenants who stayed in the south of Strachan parish to fell the pine woods in Glen Dye, provided that they took on paying the mortification moneys to the Banchory Kirk Session. For three or four years this worked, but then the sales of bark and timber dwindled, and the debts increased – all this was carefully written down on fragile sheets of paper.

The legal battles between estates were most intense between 1710 and 1735, and created lengthy documents often hard to read and understand. But three short missives written in 1723 stand out to me as showing the personal feelings of some involved. First there are two letters from Lady Anne Fraser to the minister of Strachan, Lewis Reid, asking him to attend meetings of the Banchory Kirk Session, and saying that her husband, Peter Fraser was "furth of this kingdom". In one letter she enclosed £20 – the subsequent Kirk Session minute noted that 500 marks should have been paid, which I

reckon was equivalent to £28 sterling. At the same time John Douglas of Tilquhillie wrote to the Banchory session clerk asking him to write to every session clerk in the kingdom that if Peter Fraser was seen in their parish to have him put in their tolbooth. What a task for the session clerk! But I doubt the angry laird had any response.

For this period 1680-1760 there are also many interesting documents in the archives telling about church affairs that are more normal, and I will write about them in the next instalment.

David Welch

## Session Report

The session met and discussed the following topics:

- Practical aspects of the introduction of the unitary constitution. The current function of the board will be split into three groups who will report to the kirk session: finance, property and administration. The kirk session plan to meet in the first year a total of eight times. Committees will review and adjust their remits as necessary. Reports to the session to be in written format wherever possible.
- Noted that the five names of the Worship engagement committee members were submitted to presbytery for consideration as local preachers. Members of presbytery will come and hear the individuals as availability of preachers and presbytery members permits.
- The Children and Families worker job has been advertised.
- Lisa McCombie has taken over the role of magazine editor from the May edition.
- There was an order of the day at 7:45pm and as indicated by the result of a paper vote, the session of Banchory Ternan East church will allow non-church organisations to hold non-commercial raffles on Banchory Ternan East church premises.
- Reports were received, discussed and actioned as appropriate from the following committees: Community and Fellowship, Congregational Board, Presbytery elder and Safeguarding
- The next kirk session meeting in June will include within its agenda reports from committees covering work on Children and youth, communication, world mission, Congregational board, safeguarding and presbytery elder.
- The meeting ended with all elders standing to say the grace together.
- A copy of the minutes will be available for the congregation to read once they have been approved by the Kirk Session at its next meeting.

Opinions expressed in the magazine are not necessarily shared by the Editor. The Editor is not responsible for the contents for any advertisement placed, nor the reliability or quality of any goods or services offered. Inclusions in the magazine, should not be taken as an endorsement of the advertiser by the Editor.

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