



# The Ronnecht

Summer Edition 2019



**Banchory Ternan East Church**

Our Mission

*To know Christ and make Him known*

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

# The Ronnecht



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## A message from the magazine team

In this edition we look at the Pastoral care in the church community.

As we spoke with members of the teams of the Pastoral Care Committee at the Banchory Ternan East church, it was evident that the rewards they receive from being part of this group are huge. Great friendships have been formed, wonderful stories told and life lessons learned in exchange for time, love, compassion, a sympathetic ear and support when someone needs it most.



We look at what our pastoral care teams do in the community and why this work is so important. We read about the different people they visit, from house bound individuals to hospital in-patients.

This magazine will show the broad support the church provides in the community and how we deliver it.

If anyone feels they could benefit from a visit or knows someone else who might enjoy a visitor then please get in touch. Please contact Lillian at the East Church office or speak to any of the Elders directly.

From The Editorial team

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## A message from your Minister

Dear Friends

How the year flies through, doesn't it? Even in the church it seems to go quickly. Christmas, Epiphany, Palm Sunday, Holy week, Easter day and of course our Stated Annual Meeting (SAM). Soon to be Pentecost, I hear you say. Our lives are the same; busy weeks become bursting months and before you know it we're thinking of Summer holidays and it's Christmas again.

In the manse just before Easter, we endured a technologically induced slow-down in the pace of life. Our electric kettle broke down. Easily fixed, I thought, a new one can be delivered next day. Next day turned out to be five days later. Luckily, we were saved because we have a back-up kettle bought from "Wrights Hardware" shop along with two large blue plastic flasks 20 years ago in Girvan. Unfortunately, it must be boiled on the hob and while I was thankful that I could still make coffee, I did wonder how to use the extra 10 minutes in this slower



paced life? Having a bit of a phobia about leaving pans unattended on the hob, I took to sitting in a chair in the kitchen reading a book while waiting for the pleasant whistle of contented boiling water frolicking in the kettle. The book is about ice\* and at one point Nancy Campbell quoted from a poem called Journey to Iceland.

"Then let the good citizen here find natural marvels: the horseshoe ravine, the issue of steam from a cleft. In the rock, and rocks, and waterfalls brushing the rocks; and among the rocks, birds." W H Auden, July 1936.

A beautiful description of a landscape to marvel at, but the impatient scientist in me wanted to paraphrase it as: there are lots of rocks, you sometimes see a waterfall and then there are the birds. Like the kettle boiling my water more slowly, reading Auden's words slowly released something else into my mind a feeling for the scenery that you can savour even 83 years after it was written. Yes rocks, but glimpses of beauty; be it waterfalls or birds interacting with the rocks. Auden describes a picture of hope and reassurance from a few words with which we can construct a whole landscape. Then let the good citizen here find natural marvels. Soon my mind was reaching into the bible to the well-known parable of the sower with its description of seeds, rocks, soil and birds and a reminder that "these are the ones sown on the good soil." Then let the good citizen here find natural marvels.

### Kid's Kirk Parable of sower



"Then let the good citizen here find natural marvels." W.H Auden.

"And these are the ones sown on the good soil." Mark 4:30

Placing the parable beside the words of Auden, the hope we build with God for the future comes into focus. Auden describes a fleeting glimpse of hope and beauty amongst the rocks. Jesus reminds us that building this hope requires work and resilience on our part.

And just after Easter, we held our Stated Annual Meeting (SAM), that time when we celebrate all that the East church does in worship but also for our communities. We are a community orientated church always looking to help those around us by organising events. Some of our great activities like Tom

Toms, The Guild and Men's group, Kandy support and Friendship lunches have been active for many years, yet we don't rest on past achievements, we still help wherever we find a need, like the new monthly young parents' group, crafty church group and how we work with the schools.

"Then let the good citizen here find natural marvels. Auden's words alongside the parable of the sower offer a description of the East church we would happily apply to our work.

So thank you everyone who helps make it a reality and if there is an activity you haven't tried out yet, then maybe give it a go; contact details for groups and planned events are in this magazine, on facebook and the website.

Your minister, Alan

\*The library of ice by Nancy Campbell.

# Church Noticeboard

## Baptisms



Finlay James Stewart  
Baptised 24 March 2019



Ben Iain and Mathew  
Alexander Mcrae  
Baptised 19 May 2019

## Congratulations Forbes and Joan Burn

On 60 years of marriage and thank you for inviting us to share in your celebrations on the 14th April in the church service and also for providing us with not just cake, but creme eggs too.



The latest singing sensation with Pat, Ray,  
Maureen and Helen as

### The Silver Linings



Thank you very much to Pat Thain on behalf of the East Church Guild and the whole of the church for her time as Joint-Convener of the Guild. Pat is now retiring from her role but will continue to support Ray as Convener and the Guild in the future.



David Culshaw enjoys some welcome company from Alison and Abigail before heading to Inverness on his next leg of his Charity Cycle in aid of Banchory Paths Association.

David cycled 657 miles over 5 cities to raise money towards the costs of the new disability compatible path in Corsee Woods.

More details can be found on David's page  
[www.davidcyclefivecities.com](http://www.davidcyclefivecities.com)



## Congratulations John Wills

John was presented with his British Empire Medal in the East Church on 6th May 2019 by Carol Kinghorn, Lord Lieutenant of Kincardineshire

John received this medal for services to trampolining in the North East of Scotland

Look closely to see John's name inscribed on the medal's edge.

# East Church In Brief

## Solidarity for Sri Lanka

Everyone was stunned and shocked by the events of Easter Sunday when bombs exploded in churches and hotels in Sri Lanka. The TV news showed white ribbons being hung as a sign of solidarity and peace in the churches and on the streets of Sri Lanka. The moderator of the Church of Scotland asked congregations to hang ribbons so that our church family in Sri Lanka and the nation at large, can see they are very much in our thoughts and prayers. This tiny action was offered simply as a physical symbol to those who have gone through so much and of the love we hold them in.



**Thank you, Jennifer and Isobel** (and page turner Sarah) for your wonderful concert of such varied musical styles on 7<sup>th</sup> April which raised £346 for church funds. I'm not sure there was a person in the church that afternoon who did not sympathise with the girl in flat 14G who was just looking for a bit of peace to read her book, but discovered she had uniquely noisy neighbours. One person commented the show was "Fantastic, Brilliant."

## Congratulations to Amy Peirce

on her induction to Birse and Feughside church on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March. It was a wonderful celebration of Amy's new ministry and made very special by the involvement of Robin, Grant and Heather Morrison in leading the worship. Tony preached the sermon and Alan, as moderator of the presbytery, inducted Amy to her charge



## Used Stamp Collection

Thank you to everyone who donated their used stamps to the World Mission Appeal last year. The total raised by the Church of Scotland was £2433 which made a significant difference to supporting children with learning difficulties and disabilities in Hungary through the Reformed Church of Transcarpathia.



This year the Stamp Appeal will be supporting the Chigodi Women Centre in Blantyre, Malawi, who deliver a broad range of skills training to address the challenges faced by women in Malawi. The aim is to improve the status of women and increase their chances of future employment.

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the World Mission Stamp Appeal. Information about the projects supported over the past 50 years can be found on the website. [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world\\_mission/world\\_mission\\_news](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/serve/world_mission/world_mission_news)

Please keep putting your used stamps in the box in the entrance to the church, or if you cannot do that we can easily arrange to come and collect them from you. Just give me a ring on 01330 823724.

Thank you, Liz Culshaw

## Parish Deaths

Jane Lawrie - 1 February 2019

Norah Esslemont - 26 March 2019

Annie Hunter - 8 March 2019

Rosaline Greierson - 2 April 2019

Bob Henderson - 23 March 2019

Elizabeth (Betty) Milne - 30 April 2019

### Norah Black Esslemont

Norah Black Esslemont who died at the age of 90, was born in Aberdeen on 15th July 1928 when the world was very different from today. During her career Norah would challenge and overcome some of the many prejudices of the time.

Norah, the youngest of four sisters, rose through the male dominated working environment of the BBC in Glasgow, to become head of BBC Television Planning for Scotland. Her good friend, Pat, was Head of Radio Planning. Norah negotiated the programming schedule for BBC Scotland and was very used to being in charge of others. Even recently in Bellfield care home, there was a time when a carer brought in the post and without looking up, Norah just pointed to the table where the post was to be laid. A little insight into Norah's working life.

For 11 years she was secretary to the Friends of Bellfield. In this role she didn't just take the minutes of the meetings. She would phone the minister up with a reminder of the meetings and when she phoned there was 'no dithering maybe answers' allowed. She wanted to hear yes, "I'll be there" or "no I can't make it".



Life at the BBC was not all work and Norah found the BBC club to be a lively place for discussion over a G & T with colleagues. She was a member of the church her whole life, an elder at New Kirkpatrick church and then a member of both the East church and the Guild. She was a loyal member of the Guild and was recently presented with a certificate for 50 years' service. She loved her time with the Guild and attended every meeting she could. Their annual outings were a highlight of her time there and she described them as a great treat.

Norah showed a deep sense of civic responsibility and was very generous to charities. With a love of musical concerts, badminton, flower arranging and golf. She was a member of Douglas Park Golf club in Bearsden, a great golfer in Banchory and loved book discussions with her friends.

Norah had a real interest in travel. When in Glasgow she and her friend, Bet Sutherland, would often take trips to St Andrews. Over the years Norah and her sister, Isobel, loved to cruise not just the Mediterranean but to Norway, Madeira, Russia and Lisbon too. Sadly, last Autumn Norah gave up driving and moved to Bellfield, it was not long after that she passed away, on March 14<sup>th</sup> 2019 in ARI.

Norah achieved a lot in her life. She held a very responsible job at a time when the world was profoundly male orientated. She was enormously generous and loved to laugh. Once when she went shopping for a coat, she discovered her niece Ann was buying coats for her dogs, not herself. Out came her very distinctive smile and laughter ensued.

Norah will be sadly missed.

## Pastoral Care Committee

My name is John Reid and I get to be the convener of the Kirk Session Parish pastoral care group. It's quite a mouthful, so what does it mean? What do we do? Short answer: We try to look out for members of our church. This may be members who are unable to come to church because of illness or age.



### Glen O Dee visiting

Let's start with Mary Paris and Morag Parr who every Monday, no matter what they are doing and whatever the weather, visit the Glen O Dee. They visit everyone who would like a chat in the Hospital, East church members or not, and are known by some patients as simply the "Ladies from the Church". Visiting helps them discover who is not well in Banchory and the surrounding area and with their permission pass information onto friends who may not have heard of their situation. On page 11, you'll find Morag's thoughts on this essential job.

### Visitors group

Isobel Brown has led the "visitors group" for many years. Twice a year the group meets to review who would benefit from a visit. Our visitors are matched with those wanting visits. At the moment our visitors comprise Isobel Brown, Kate Gourlay, Margaret Reid, Andy Thom, Morag Parr, Mary Paris, John Reid, Mary Forbes and Ray Thomson who visit a total of 13 people. Leonard Kemp, although no longer visiting, attends the visitor meeting as a source of what's going on. As you see, age is no bar to being a visitor. Some visitors continue visiting despite their own personal problems. Sadly, we lost this year one of our visitors Norah Esslemont. She put us youngsters to shame. You can read more about Norah's life on page 6. Outwith Isobel's group we are grateful to a small group of people who have been called on to help with urgent out of the Blue calls for visits. These are Margo Cormack, George Montgomery, Maureen Mutch and Margaret Paterson. Of course Elders visit the sick and infirm in their own districts too. Twice a year, in March and October, Isobel and her team of helpers hold a "Tea and Music" event. In March this year we were entertained by Andy Bruce and pupils from Banchory Academy where 65 people enjoyed a fabulous tea.

### Cards for special occasions

Helen Carberry acts as our memory secretary. She buys and sends cards for special occasions like birthdays of the over 80s or golden weddings. If you know of such a special occasion, please let Helen know well in advance.

### Flower committee

Under the leadership of Mary Paris, the dedicated members of the flower committee which includes Margaret Duncan, Anne Martindale, Helen Abrahams, Faye Hay, Sue Swallow, Edna Levitt and Sheila Maclean ensure that the church is decorated beautifully, not only at festival times like Christmas, Easter and Harvest but every Sunday of the year. Thank you so much for your commitment and work. The flowers in the Church are donated by church members and friends or supplied by the committee who then magically break them into smaller bunches to be distributed to people at sad or happy times.

Over the years, those involved with flowers in the church change. We would like to say a big thank you to Helen Anderson who for many years arranged and supported this group of busy church workers, but has now, reluctantly, decided that the time has come to hang up her secateurs. Thank you Helen for all your work over the years.

## My role as an Elder

### Ray Thomson

When I was invited by my minister in Glasgow to become an elder, I did not at first accept the request. I was a young mum with two children and my husband, Stan, worked long hours, so I felt I could not devote the time needed to carry out my eldership duties. However, when I was approached again, and after some prayerful consideration, I accepted.



The day I became an elder was one of the proudest moments of my life, as I felt it was a great honour. It was a happy day, but tinged with sadness, because both my parents had recently passed away, and I knew how proud they would have been.

Being part of the Kirk Session, was a challenge, and serving communion absolutely terrified me. However, what I enjoyed most, and still do, is visiting the people in my district. I think pastoral care is the most important part of my eldership, and I get a lot of satisfaction from listening to people, especially the elderly and the lonely. I love to hear about family, days gone past, and also if there are worries or concerns.

I have a lot of happy memories. When I visited an elderly lady, who insisted on giving me a cup of tea, and no matter how often I told her that I didn't take sugar or milk in my tea, it came with both!! I used to look and see if there was a plant pot handy! I visited an elderly gentlemen on numerous occasions, but I was never invited into his house, until one day, when I was visiting his neighbour, he came to her door and asked if I would go back and see him. I was invited into the house and he gave me a beautiful painting, and we had a lovely chat about his life. I was very touched by this wonderful gesture and went back home with a spring in my step and a tear in my eye.

There are challenging times too, and you can become disheartened, when your visit still doesn't encourage people to attend church. However, I have had the odd occasion when someone has come back to church. I have never regretted becoming an elder, and I still feel I am unworthy of the post, but I will strive to do the best I can.

### Bill Coutts

It wasn't actually my choice to accept the eldership. I was simply walking down the main street in Galashiels in 1974, when I was stopped by our Minister. He informed me the Session has been discussing the need for more Elders. "So, we've decided you will join us", he said. They weren't taking no as an answer. Our Minister was a very formidable man so I daren't refuse!

Since that day I have taken my role as an Elder very seriously, I try to visit my District on a regular basis. They all have my phone number and can contact me if required. I like to think I have a good relationship with the members in my district. When I was an Elder in Elgin, one of my District members always gave me grapes from her greenhouse for my children. This lady was a good church attender and always told me when the grapes were ready to be picked; so that was me being summonsed to visit. Her kindness was appreciated but we never did tell her the grapes were too sour to eat!

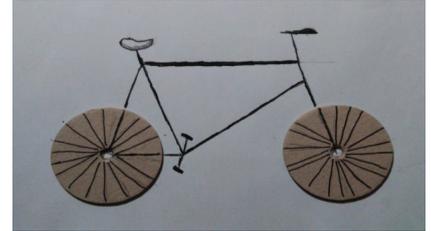


I enjoy and value my role as an elder. Looking to the future of the church, I hope to see our Church grow in numbers and fellowship with the appointment of younger elders.

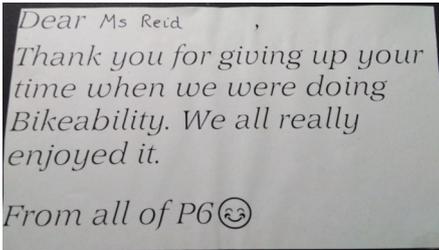
## Bikeability Support in Hill of Banchory primary School

To add to the current support we provide to the local primary schools, members of the congregation of Banchory East Church turned out in force to support the bikeability sessions in one of the schools.

Our Children and Families worker, Sarah, was approached by the Hill of Banchory primary school with a plea for help at the upcoming cycling proficiency training with the Primary 6 children.



Eight members of the congregation volunteered to support the week long event earlier in the year. Each of the volunteers had a



great time although they were unprepared for the hill walking! The volunteers would like to thank the children and teachers at the primary school for the opportunity to come along and spend time with the children while providing their support.

Pictured are the thank you cards the children made themselves for the volunteers.

## Family Ministry

The East church has considerable contact with families in the community during the week. This includes our hugely popular Tom Toms group on a Monday morning and our toddler group on a Tuesday Morning. We also run our monthly Messy Church and holiday club sessions. It was from these groups that the idea for our family group came to light. The parents of the children in these groups had as much fun creating the activities as the children. Some parents even created a masterpiece while their child continued to play. From this simple colouring picture emerged a plan for families to come together where the grown-ups get to create.



It was from this that the first family group session came together with decorating of Easter cupcakes. A small but cheerful group of ladies armed with cupcakes and decorating supplies set to work while the children played in the top end of the hall. The children played happily while the ladies spent some time together enjoying themselves. The morning was a success and the flock of sheep cakes were beautiful.

With the success of the first session we have made plans for the next few months. The idea is that for a small contribution, up to £5, we can create something everyone can take home on the day. We plan to hold a small creche which will allow for the children to be supervised in the hall while the activity is taking place. There will be a small fee for creche to donate to the leaders and provide snacks for the children.

Our next session is on Wednesday 26th June at 10am where you can create your own summer planter. With only your own planter needed, come along and be guided though creating your planted pot. Our leader will share his secrets and knowledge on each of the plants used and how to take care of them over the coming months. Plants and compost will be provided with your £5 fee.

### Family Group Calendar

Wednesday 26th June - Planter instruction

Wednesday 28th August - Pencil drawing workshop

## Church Drivers

Every week through snow, rain and the occasional day of sunshine, a team of members provide transport to church for those who need it. We asked two of the drivers, George Montgomery and David Maxwell these five questions to give us a little insight into the process of being a driver.

### 1. What is the process of being a driver on a Sunday – how does it work?

Mike Jamieson, our Session Clerk, makes up the duty roster for each Sunday and there are two elders assigned for transport duty. Lillian, the church secretary, sends an email on Friday reminding the elders who they have to pick up on Sunday. *David Maxwell*

There is a rota system that Mike Jamieson administers. The people who do the pick ups on a Sunday morning are also involved as a duty elder doing the offering on that morning, but not all duty elders are involved in pick-ups and, of course, the driver doing the pick up will also return the people to their address. 'Clients' can contact the church office, usually on a Friday morning, and ask Lillian to be collected. Lillian will then contact the duty 'drivers' to advise who needs collecting. *George Montgomery*



### 2. Why do people get collected; who is eligible?

The people who are collected either do not have transport or are a bit infirm and unable to drive. Anyone can request to be picked up on a Sunday morning. *David Maxwell*

Anyone, as far as I'm aware is eligible. Usually the people have no transport of their own and don't have easy access to public transport plus most, if not all have mobility issues. *George Montgomery*

### 3. What are the personal aspects involved?

All drivers have to complete the PVG courses for vulnerable adults. Some of the elderly need help to get in and out of the vehicle. One of the ladies I collect has been in my district for many years. *David Maxwell*

Driver's would need to be insured (no special insurance needed but appropriate to advise insurance companies) and hold a current driving licence. All drivers have the appropriate Safeguarding checks completed. Hopefully we are all punctual as pick-ups are around about 10am. A tidy clean car is also nice. *George Montgomery*

### 4. How does it change your routine?

For me it doesn't change my routine as I normally have to pick up from Dalvenie Gardens which I pass on my way to church. So, for me it is a very minor detour. *David Maxwell*

In my case it means a slightly earlier start to the day, but that's a good thing. *George Montgomery*

### 5. What do you feel are the best parts of being a driver?

It is nice to feel you are helping those who otherwise would not be able to attend church. Perhaps I will need this service myself one day. *David Maxwell*

The welcome one gets from the people being collected is always uplifting (even in the worst weather). *George Montgomery*



There is currently a small team of dedicated drivers who work on the rota to collect our members. The church drivers are Andy Thom, David Laing, David Maxwell, John Reid, George Montgomery, Charles Robertson and Sandy MacDonald. The team is very small and are currently looking for more people to help out. If you think you could help and would like to find out more please contact Mike Jamieson.

The service is available to anyone who needs it. If you'd like to explore the possibility of a lift to church each week or on an odd occasion when transport is an issue, please contact Lillian at the church office on 01330 820380, where she will be happy to assist you.

## The Visitors Group

In 2000 and under the auspices of the then Pastoral Committee, a church visitors group was formed. After a series of training evenings, members of Banchory Ternan East came together with the common goal of visiting elderly housebound members of the congregation. Those to be visited were identified by the minister (Hamish Fleming at the time) and Session. Liz Murdoch and I were asked to be the co-ordinators of the scheme. This involved matching visitors with members, keeping in contact with the former and sorting out any difficulties or changes in circumstance. We had around 20 visitors in the early years and although the list has reduced due to some moving away from Banchory or death or age, of the 8 visiting at present, 6 were there at the beginning.



We go in the name of the Church and offer companionship and friendship. The frequency of our visits depends on individual circumstances - we don't lay down rules. We stress the need to be good listeners. We may have to be patient with those who are deaf or a little confused and of course, we respect confidentiality at all times.

It was at Mary Paris's suggestion, that in 2009 we start a biannual Tea and Music event. These events have been such a success, not only due to the very good afternoon tea, but also to the many music groups who have entertained us voluntarily over the years. We try to keep the cost to a minimum so no one is excluded and the money raised is used to offset some of the cost of the food. With a small donation given to the musicians and also to pay the Kandy Group for the cards which we send to the over 80s. Anything left over goes into the congregation's General Fund.



As a group we meet twice a year to catch up on those we visit, discuss any problems and generally enjoy one another's company over a cup of tea and cake. It is an amazingly faithful group of people who, year after year, quietly go about caring for others. I may coordinate the group, but as a visitor I am also part of it and time after time we agree that we get more out of visiting folk than we put in. It is a privilege to share in the stories of their lives and establish a relationship with them. By and large, they have grown up in our congregation through Sunday School and first Communion, been married and had their children baptised here, served in our organisations, given to and prayed for our needs. Our desire and prayer as a group is to offer them our company and a listening ear as we share their memories, learn from their experiences and benefit from their wisdom.

*Isobel Brown*

If you know of anyone who would benefit from a visitor or any one over 80 who isn't receiving a birthday card, please contact Isobel Brown, Mary Paris or John Reid

### An insight into Glen O Dee visiting

Approximately 10 years ago, I joined Mary Paris on her weekly visits to the Glen O Dee Hospital. Since then we have had some lively times of laughter from many a patient's funny stories. Another patient who was blind, said she always knew it was Monday because that was the day we visited her. She decided to call us the "the Monday M and M's".



From these visits we not only get to know the patients but in some cases their families and visitors. On one occasion, after a patient was transferred to a local nursing home, a few weeks later her daughter was waiting at the hospital door to tell us her mother had passed away. She thanked us for our weekly visits, remarking how much they meant to her mother.

We have happy and sad visits. But are always greeted warmly by the patients, their families and visitors. We have made many friends over the years, some who are frequently hospitalized and others we come across in our daily lives. We feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to be there for them.

Morag Parr

## Diary Dates

### June

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June - Crafty Church, 1pm in Main Hall

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June - Family Group, 10am in Main Hall

(Constructing a flower planter - Booking Essential)

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June - Friendship Lunch, 12noon in Main Hall

Saturday 29th June Congregational Picnic, Aboyne Green

(Picnic sign up essential via church office, transport by bus)

Sunday 30th June - Kids Kirk Celebration Service, 10.30am

### July

8th to 12th July - Summer Holiday Club, 10am in East Church

(For children aged 0-13 years, booking essential, contact  
sarah@banchoryeastchurch.com)

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July - Crafty Church, 1pm in Main Hall

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> July - Friendship Lunch, 12 noon in Main Hall

### August

Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August - Crafty Church, 1pm in Main Hall

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> August Friendship Lunch, 12noon in Main Hall

Tuesday 27th August - Messy Church, 3.30-5.30pm in Main Hall

(For families with children ages 0-13)

The story of Noah's Ark - construct the ark and join us on the journey)

Wednesday 28th August - Family Group, 10am in Main Hall

(Create your own pencil drawing - Booking Essential)

## **Useful Contacts**

### **Minister — Rev. Alan Murray**

01330 822481, [ajsmurray@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:ajsmurray@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### **Church Office**

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### **Session Clerk — Mike Jamieson**

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

### **Youth Co-ordinator — Greg Lister**

[greg@banchorywestchurch.com](mailto:greg@banchorywestchurch.com)

### **Children and Families Worker — Sarah Reid**

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### **Director of Music — Muriel Welch**

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

### **Church Treasurer — Helen Carberry**

01330 824409, [treasurer@banchoryeastchurch.com](mailto:treasurer@banchoryeastchurch.com)

### **Church Officer— Douglas Ogg**

01330 825426

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**Scottish Charities No. SC011251**

## Pastoral care in ministry

On ordination a minister makes promises, some are theological, but the last one opens with a simple question “Do you accept and close with the call to be pastor of this charge?” The answer is “I do” and so starts a life long commitment to being a pastor and working out just what that means in the particular context of each charge you work with. However you view being a pastor, it involves being with people in everything that you do. Sometimes that means tears or a call late at night that takes you out of the manse, at other times it’s a welcome break from routine when someone rings the bell and stays for a morning of coffee and chat. Being a minister or pastor to the parish is about talking, yes, but it is also about listening and drinking lots of coffee. So much coffee that one kind parishioner bought me a filter coffee machine for the study to allow me to work more efficiently.



Most pastoral visiting happens outside the manse and each visit is different. For example, some are general visits to people in the parish or hospital supplementing the marvellous visiting that the elders and visitors groups do, others are in response to a particular request from a member. I am always happy to visit if requested. Over the years the nature of a visiting has changed dramatically, broadening from chapping on doors, phoning or even writing letters of encouragement to embracing, especially when working with the under 40’s, a whole range of digital and social media methods. While one member with, I hope, tongue in cheek encouraged me recently

just to smile and nod, Grandad, when Facebook or Instagram were mentioned. Social media has become a very valuable tool in pastoral visiting by many ministers including me.

Maybe the most visible type of pastoral support I do is associated with bereavement and funeral planning. I am available to take funerals with Christian content for any who live in our parish and it is such a privilege to be invited to help out at such times. Over the years I have planned and delivered over 300 funerals. The time spent hearing stories and shaping funeral services so that they are specific to our memories of the person we are giving thanks for, is, strangely, one of the great pleasures of ministry. Long gone are the days where a funeral was delivered to a set formula and contained just a few phrases about our relatives buried deep in a long prayer of thanksgiving and commendation. Similarly, music in funerals is now chosen to reflect aspects of a loved one’s life. One of the memories I treasure is of a funeral in my early years as a minister where the song ‘Hey big Spender’ was played as the coffin left the church. Was that an ambiguous reference to the marvellous all encompassing love of God or to something more human than divine?

As a parish minister, I am not allowed by church law to charge for taking funerals, but cannot refuse a Christian service to anybody in my parish and so would like to thank you the church members, who contribute so generously through their offerings to allow the church of Scotland to maintain this stance. Over the last few years, I have been assisted by a whole host of people including Janie Stuart, David Galbraith, members of the Worship engagement committee and Henna Cundill. I thank them for their work delivering scripts and writing and delivering their own eulogies and stepping in when I was not available.

In all parishes, but especially in busy parishes like that of the East church, visiting involves many visits which could be categorised as administrative such as many for the children’s work of the church or the financial aspects of being church. Often though these administrative meetings include a lot more laughter and fun than I ever remember in my days of leading industrial management meetings.

## The Joy of Volunteering

When I retired in November 2016 I was keen to keep busy. As a committee member of 'Friends of Bellfield', I decided to become a volunteer and was warmly welcomed. However, I never imagined it would initially involve a paintbrush or a sander. The 'Friends' had been fortunate to receive a substantial donation from The Summer Marquee Ball and one of the proposals was to renovate the old dilapidated summerhouse in the garden. My husband Allan, and I rose to the challenge and within three months the old summerhouse went from a shabby dumping space to a tranquil retreat for residents and staff. It allows residents and their families to enjoy time away from the hustle and bustle of the main building. It also doubles as a bolthole for small team meetings and for those who need a quiet space. It was a labour of love for us both and rewarding to see it now being enjoyed by so many.



Summerhouse before Maureen and Allan got to work

With the summerhouse complete I began my weekly Tuesday morning visits to Bellfield, which is mainly supporting Lynne Gordon the Activities Co-ordinator. Lynne's enthusiasm is infectious as she shares her creative skills in a quiet, patient way and encourages the residents in so many different activities. Bellfield is fortunate to have a lovely secure garden where we enjoy being creative with planting and tending the raised plant containers or just donning sunhats and enjoy the nice weather. Some residents prefer the solace of the quiet lounge or their own rooms which allows for quiet chats on a one to one basis and that in itself can be most interesting. As a keen photographer, I like to visit and capture the enjoyment of the residents. I share them at Bellfield and with the families which are always appreciated



The renovated Summerhouse

'The Friends' are always looking for ways of enhancing the support they already provide. Last April we trialled short outings with 3 residents each week to Mains of Drum Garden Centre. These Wednesday morning trips were so popular we continued them through till the end of September. The joy the residents gained from the outings was for Margaret Reid (from 'The Friends') and myself much more than we ever expected. On each trip the residents remarked on the beautiful countryside views, the treat of coffee and



scones whilst engaging with staff and customers as well as the pleasure they experienced from seeing all the colourful plants and the array of merchandise. As the weather changed and the trips ended, they often remarked on how much they enjoyed and appreciated their outings. These simple words speak volumes for how small acts of kindness can make such a difference to peoples' lives and why volunteering is so rewarding. As I write this article it's the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of April and we have already two outings under our belt this year, which Lex Corris from 'The

Friends' happily lent her support. As volunteers, Margaret, Lex and I all agree that we are indeed blessed in supporting such nice people, their lovely comments and happy smiles make our Wednesday mornings very special.

These activities are only possible due to the annual fund-raising efforts of 'The Friends' and why Bellfield very much appreciates the loyal support they receive from members of the community. It is all about treats for the residents and financially supporting activities to ensure that their daily lives are fulfilled. Like many members of the congregation, I have enjoyed a long association with Bellfield, initially in the late 1970's when I helped with the Sunday Teas and more recently when I joined 'The Friends' committee in 2014. It is for me extremely heart-warming to be welcomed each week by happy smiling residents. Bellfield is a shining example of what residential care should be for older people in our community and volunteering at Bellfield each week has certainly enriched my life. Working alongside Janis, Caroline and the team is a delight and I look forward to supporting Bellfield for many more years to come.

Maureen Mutch

## What happens before 10.30am on a Sunday

Mr. Douglas Ogg, our Church officer, arrives at 9am like clockwork. He unlocks the church which, thanks to Jenny, is clean and fresh. The flower committee have been in the night before producing a floral masterpiece; each week creating a new design to show off the blooms to their full potential.

After taking the bible from the pulpit to the front door, Douglas ensures the orders of service are ready, glasses of water are poured and in place, tests the microphones and sound system and generally makes sure the church is in order.



The slide show which compliments the service, which has been designed the night before by one of the computer team (George and Stan), is set up, and

switched on to provide information prior to the service. This is a snapshot of all that is coming up in the church and reminders of the people who lead our groups. Meanwhile, a dedicated team of drivers are out picking up anyone who has requested transport to church that morning.

Members of the welcome committee are in place at the door, ready to dish out a friendly good morning and an Order of Service. The mornings counters have arrived to set up the room ready to deal with the offering.

Alan by now has the sermon prepared and is making some last minute changes, checking the iPad is synced and charged before getting on his robes and heading out to meet and greet people attending the service.

Over in the hall a team of people are in preparing the tea, coffee and delicious baked delights, setting up the hall ready to welcome everyone for refreshments after the service. The kids Kirk team have arrived laden with crafts and treats. They have prepared a fun packed morning for our children and youth. Keeping them entertained whilst teaching stories and messages from the bible.

The choir has gathered early in the hall under the leadership of Muriel, our musical director, for a short practice before the service. This is a time to warm up their vocal chords, having them in good voice for leading the singing. They practise the introit or anthem for that morning, which they will normally have worked at on a Thursday practice. Some services have an accompaniment from the orchestra, who are in place and practicing on the chancel area as the members arrive in church.



At 10.15 Alan and the worship team for the morning, say a prayer in the vestry. This is a time to thank God for the privilege to lead the congregation in worship and for the people who step out in faith and help lead.

At the same time Douglas rings the church bells, calling everyone to worship. You may be surprised to learn that he no longer needs to pull

the rope, there is a simple switch in place. Some people have gathered in church early, simply for the fellowship, taking opportunity to meet with others, share their stories of the past week and feel part of the church family.

Amidst all the hustle and bustle, Lilian is there. Ensuring everyone is in place and everything runs on time. She signals for the choir to come into the Church. This is the cue for Douglas to bring the Bible forward, followed by our Minister. At this point the service begins.

A lot of hard work, organisation and preparation which blends together, every week to create a wonderful, joyous time of worship. Many people make the church work.

## **A fisherman named Peter**

Our bible is a book that has been read by many and will be by many more in the future. It's a history book, a guide and a source of support. But it's also a story. Like any good novel, it's got a thrilling storyline. Or in this case, quite a few storylines. In those stories we find our characters. The bible has plenty of characters. Some more famous than others. Some we can truly say have been fundamental in the establishment of the early church. One such character is Peter.

I've spent a great deal of time studying Peter. Alongside a few others, Peter is a firm favourite of mine. His story has brought me strength and encouragement when I have questioned my place in ministry. It has also brought me tears as I shared in his agony. Let's now look more closely at the rock upon which Jesus built his church.

Simon Peter, a Galilean fisherman and one of the 12 disciples. Jesus called for Peter when he was out fishing with his father. He left his nets and followed Jesus immediately. From here onwards Peter featured prominently in Jesus' earthly ministry. He, like many others, remained with Jesus throughout his whole three-year ministry.

Throughout his time with Jesus he proved himself to be a loyal and courageous character. In the boat during the storm it was an impulsive Peter who called out to the figure walking on the water. If Jesus really was the messiah, then Peter too could walk out across the water. When called to do so, Peter bravely steps out and walks on water. He trusted Jesus with his life.

Present at the transfiguration it was a loyal Peter who wanted to put up tents. It was Peter who confessed to knowing the truth that Jesus was the messiah. At the prediction of the disciples scattering, the loyal Peter declares he would remain faithful to the end. But of course, you and I know all too well Peter's fate.

Peter's infamous denial. Even when Jesus predicts this three-time denial, Peter cannot believe it. His heart remained with Jesus. As the cock crows for the third time, Jesus looks straight at Peter, he drops to his knees and weeps. The realisation of his predicted triple denial tears his heart in two. He does not stay for the crucifixion. Jesus dies on the cross. Peter's world is shattered; his messiah is gone.

In his shattered world without his friend and messiah, Peter stumbles through the hours. When suddenly two women, not respected by society, run to Peter claiming the body of Jesus is gone. The pain is unbearable, not only is Jesus dead but his body is gone. Searching for an answer, Peter runs to the tomb. Fearlessly he enters and finds Mary's claim confirmed. The body is gone.

The following hours in this exciting story are depicted slightly differently in each gospel. Jesus reappears to the disciples. But only John tells us of a dejected, guilt ridden Peter fishing by the Sea of Galilee with a few other disciples. Their trip is unproductive, until a man calls from the shores to cast their nets at the other side. At this they have a massive catch. Jesus is instantly recognised, Peter jumps from the boat and runs to Jesus. He calls them to the beach to join him for breakfast.

On the beach Jesus sits with his disciples. It is the turning point of the story. The reinstatement of Peter. A confused and heartbroken Peter sits quietly with Jesus. The guilt of his denial must be heavy on Peter's mind when Jesus asks him three times the simple question. "Do you love me?" On the third time, Peter is hurt and says, "Lord you know all things; you know that I love you!" Peter is right he does know all things. The ever-loving Jesus asks that Peter takes care of his sheep in return. In this simple conversation Jesus reinstates Peter. Sending him out in his place as a disciple. Jesus honours Peter, the rock upon which he built his church.

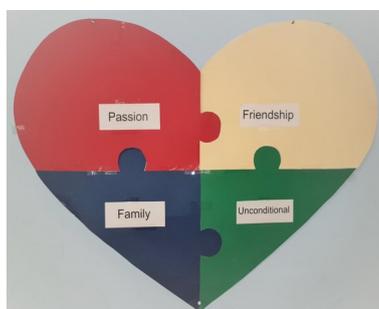
As you have read, Peter is a favourite character of mine. The bible has many characters, which is your favourite?

Sarah Reid

## Easter at the East Church

While we may enjoy Christmas time, Easter is the most important Christian festival. It is also the most ancient, significantly older than Christmas. We don't really know when it was first celebrated as an annual Easter event. In fact, in first century Christian writings, there is no reference to a special once a year celebration. More than that, the date for the celebration varied considerably for a number of centuries and our current system of determining the timing of Easter was not universally agreed until, at the earliest, the 600's. That said, every Sunday since the start of the church we have proclaimed "God raised Jesus". We celebrate Sunday as the Lord's day to reflect this importance.

All that being said, when it comes to our traditional Easter we spend a long time preparing for and celebrating it. We have come together as a church family frequently through these seasons; supporting and sharing with each other. Be it fasting through Lent or paying it forward, we have endured and worshipped Jesus' time of temptation, his acceptance of his fate and the excitement of the discovery of the empty tomb.



First comes lent; a time of preparation where we focus on all God has done for us through his grace and love. Each Lenten Children's activity revolved around exploring one of four ways that the gospel presents the love of God. To remind ourselves of how these different ways of love fit together as one big love of God, we assembled a four piece heart shaped jigsaw over the weeks of lent.

Lent ends as Holy week starts. A week where we focus our thoughts on the actions of Jesus during his last week of ministry on earth.

The story turns darker day by day, until Jesus is betrayed, arrested, tried, condemned, crucified and buried. To help us contemplate these actions and what they have meant for the church down through the ages, some who attended the Easter messy church produced a marvellous Easter garden with three crosses, a tomb and large stone to roll across when the time came.



To compliment the Easter garden, during the service on Palm Sunday, the kids kirk produced a road strewn with palm leaves and cloaks to remind us of Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey. They helped set up a display table with symbols representing the stories that we heard of Jesus last supper with his disciple, his betrayal and arrest in the garden of Gethsemane, his condemnation at Pilates hands, his crucifixion and his burial.



But it wasn't just at the East church buildings that our Easter celebrations were progressing. Crafty church, a monthly Thursday group for those who want a different style of church, were busy decorating boiled eggs. The Academy held their Easter service in the East church and a short service was held at Bellfield care home.

During Holy week we held our usual joint services with the West church too. On Maundy Thursday we celebrated communion in the West at which Alan preached, Tony blessed and broke the bread and both ministers distributed the elements. Offering a choice of common cup or small glasses, to the congregation who came up to the table to receive the sacrament. The following morning, Good Friday, our large cross which usually rests behind the communion table was brought to the front door and a band of sturdy walkers drawn from all the Banchory churches, set off around the village on a lovely day for our traditional walk of witness with the cross. We stopped at the usual places to read portions of Mark's version of Jesus last week of ministry on earth. On return to the East church, after a short

time of prayer and reflection led by Alan, we enjoyed hot cross buns and refreshments. Thank you to George, Nancy and Lillian for ensuring they appeared just as we arrived back at the church.



Good Friday has quite a sombre feel to it. It's the day we remember that Jesus was nailed to a cross and left to die. So on Friday night the East Church, stripped of flowers and finery, was used for our joint Good Friday service with the West church. Alan and Sarah led the service with music provided by Muriel and the help of George on the projector system. We considered several scenes from the passion story using the symbols from the table of objects set out on Palm Sunday. Traditional hymns were sung and there was plenty of

time to rest with thoughts of the seemingly tragic events of what we were remembering. Jesus was placed in the tomb, the stone rolled across and the heart of God's love was covered with a purple cloth. After a chance to handle the symbols, the coins or nails, the bread or crown of thorns, we departed in silence, our minds focused on different aspects of the story.

Then on a sunny Easter day, we gathered once more for a joint service with the West on The platies which was led by Greg Lister, youth coordinator and some of the young members and leaders of our BJYP groups. "He is risen", we shouted and "thank you for all you've done", we sang to God and prayed. Then to the East halls for tea and hot cross buns before the children and adults of the East church joined in worship together; the whole church family together celebrating the most important day of the Christian year; Easter day. The children constructed a willow cross and a collage of the scene outside the tomb during the service. We looked in more detail into the lives and story of two of the characters featuring in Jesus' story. The women who followed Jesus, more specifically Mary Magdalene, and the disciple Peter. Their characters and stories, and how they interact and shape the journey through Easter.



Then we rounded off our Easter day services with a short communion. At the last supper Paul reminds us that Jesus asked his disciples to eat the bread and drink from the cup in remembrance of him. So, what more appropriate day is there to see the bread blessed by God sending down his holy spirit (the epiclesis), then it being broken as Jesus body was and offered to us in the act of communion. We do what he asked us to do on the day that we remember the surprise and wonder those first disciples got when they went to the tomb. Remember it was a band of women who first found that empty grave. "You are looking for Jesus he is not here, he

has gone ahead of you". They ran to tell the other disciples who told others what they'd been told and so on down through the generations until we heard and share the story. Everyone who hears it, gets the chance to react to it and everyone does react. No one can refuse to make a decision when faced with the story. For us in the church it is a marvellous loud shout of Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. A celebration we hold not just annually, but every Sunday.

Amazingly the story continues as Jesus assembles his followers. They now must tell others the stories and the fact we know the stories is proof they obeyed him. "Don't worry", Jesus said, God will send the Holy Spirit, to support us and guide us. That arrival underpins our Pentecost. In The Message version of the book of Revelation, we read, "Listen to the wind words. The spirit blowing through the churches." It is our turn to share these stories and the Spirit wind words guide us still.



## Guild Report

The last few meetings before our AGM, were most enjoyable. We heard of the wonderful work of the 'Vine Trust' and the Citizens Advice Bureau. We had a visit from a physiotherapist, who gave us a few exercises to help us in our senior years and our own Bill Cuthbertson took us on a very interesting journey through Burma.

At our AGM, we had a presentation to Pat Thain, as she stood down, after four years, as joint convener. Although Pat is still going to be part of the Guild, we will miss her on the committee. I personally would like to thank Pat for all the support she had given me as a joint convener. I will miss her, as we worked really well as a team. I would also like to thank the committee for the sterling work they do over the session, and I am delighted to welcome Sarah Reid as a new committee member.



We are now on our summer break but over the next few weeks the committee will be organising our syllabus for the next session. This will be a challenge, as the Guild is now going to be held once a month, on the first Wednesday, rather than every two weeks. The first meeting will be on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Details of the new syllabus will be on display on the Guild notice board in the hall.

We would love to have some new members. You are invited to come join us at any of our meetings as a guest or to join us as a member.

Ray Thomson, Convener.

## Men's Group

On Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March the Men's Group held their AGM. During the first part of the evening the members enjoyed a very interesting talk with illustrations by Bob Kelley on his travels in Russia. After the talk the formal business was completed where the following members were elected:

President, George Montgomery; Vice President, Rev. Iain Brown; Secretary, Brian Bartlett; Treasurer – covered by the President; Committee Members, Andy Thom, Charlie Abel and Douglas Ogg.



Members discussed and agreed to donate The sums of £100 each towards the Erskine and Mercy Ships charities. The sum of £500 will also be donated to Church Funds.

It was also agreed, that as a project, the Men's Group would like to take on having the hearing loop system in the hall brought back to working order, by replacement or upgrade.

On a couple of 'historical' notes, we have been looking into records held by the men's group. Some information from old minutes shows there were 54 members in 2002. In 1993, a Mr J. Rennie stood down as President with Mr W. Malcolm taking over his role as president. With a gentleman named Mr F. Park re-elected as secretary.

The first meeting of the new season will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October. Where new members and guests will be most welcome.

George Montgomery, President.

## Summarised Report of Kirk Session

Stated Annual Meeting, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2019

**2018 Statistics:** Roll 520 to 502; Supplementary Roll 347.

**Minister** – Alan continued as Interim Moderator for Birse & Feughside during their vacancy and was also installed as Moderator of the local presbytery for 2018-19.

**Constitution** – following a congregation vote to move to the Unitary Constitution, Deed issued by Delegation of Assembly on 21<sup>st</sup> May. The three board committees were incorporated into the working of the Kirk session towards the end of the year.

**Presbytery Elder:** David Laing was elected to continue for 3<sup>rd</sup> year.

**Worship Engagement** – four Committee members were commissioned as Local Preachers; three in September and one in December

**Banchory Joint Youth Project** – Rookies: D'arcy Holt and Mollie Wheeler then Destinee Nelons. Music Internee: Stuart Dickinson.

**Children and Family Worker** – Part-time (50%) position advertised, Sarah Reid applied, was interviewed and appointed in September.

**Wellness Lunch** – During May, Friendship Lunches and community organised this event – good attendance and very positive feedback.

**Communication** – Revised version of church magazine 'The Ronnecht' from the Summer edition onwards – well received by members.

**Data Protection** – new regulations introduced in May and highlighted to Kirk Session.

**Stewardship** – the Stewardship Group organised an event in February with the slogan 'Keeping Life in Church and Community'.

**Fundraising** events included beetle drives, quizzes, coffee mornings, the £10 challenge and soup lunches.

**Quinquennial Inspection** - the professional surveyor and specialist contractor carried out the inspection in November.

**Church windows** – putty was replaced and the window painted. Most of the cost was covered by our 'sponsor a window pane' appeal.

**Fire drill** – was carried out on 17 June and was completed within the set guidelines.

**Church Cleaner** - Jenny Allan commenced work in February 2018

### Financial position

	2018	2017
Voluntary income	£ 82274	£89199
Total receipts	£127651	£125777
Total expenditure	£133968	£145436
Excess expenditure over income	-£6317	-£19659

Total Funds at start of 2018:	£149395
Total Funds at end of 2018:	£140254



Our main financial concern still relates to obtaining adequate regular income to fund our ongoing activities.'

I thank the Elders and congregation for their continued support and for diligently carrying out their duties.

Mike Jamieson, Session Clerk.

## East Church Archives - Part 5

In this article I report on the 1860-1910 period, a time of advance and success for our church. It was then the main congregation in Banchory, the only one belonging to the established Church of Scotland.

Just two ministers served in the fifty years, Revs. George Hutchison and James Hall. George Hutchison had begun his ministry here in 1847 and built up the congregation following the Disruption of 1843; many had left to join the new Banchory Free Church and then there had been an unfortunate three years with an inadequate minister in charge.

George Hutchison rose to become the Moderator of the whole Church of Scotland, this in 1875. He eventually resigned in 1894, being replaced by James Hall who also stayed long in office before demitting in 1920. Our archives suggest Dr Hutchison was an impatient character having hand-writing very hard to decipher, written with very few normally-shaped letters. As a measure of his success, 758 people took the sacrament at the 1894 October communion.

During Rev. Hall's ministry the church erected in 1905 a substantial "hall" in the village (opposite the present cycle shop); this was used for evening services and church social activities. There were local precedents for churches setting up second buildings near centres of population growth, notably in Stonehaven and Lumphanan where the main buildings of the established churches had become rather distant from many new properties.

Church music did well in the Hutchison years. Some singers had doubtless long helped our precentors, but in 1857 they were first called a choir in the archives that I have seen. A new precentor, Thomas Davidson, was appointed in August that year, and he was asked to meet the choir next Sunday and spend an evening each week training them. The salary given to the new precentor was £15 a year, a sharp rise on the £3 that had been paid for many years up to 1853, and it was increased again to £20 in the 1860s.

In 1878 the kirk session discussed the introduction of instrumental accompaniment. It is not certain if Mr Davidson was still precenting then, but in the initial discussion on 27 March he moved the motion "that instrumental music be introduced to assist in the psalmody". By July 16 1878 the minutes recorded that a cabinet organ "had been in use for some time, and that ... it was much appreciated by the congregation". The organ's price was 125 guineas, but "a liberal discount" would be given for a quick purchase.



The Parish Church was built on this site in 1824-1825 using stones from the previous church which had been situated in the present kirkyard and had proved too small for the growing congregation. Between 1928 and 1930 the church was beautifully restored, with the addition of an apse and chancel, together with a vestry and choir room. This helped to remedy comments made nearly a century earlier by the Reverend William Anderson in the Statistical Account of 1842 when he described the church as: 'a plain substantial building in the Gothic style, sufficiently neat and commodious within, but defective in having the tower in front too low, and in having neither a vestry nor porches behind'. A small bronze hand bell, discovered during an excavation in the glebe lands in 1865, hangs within the church. This is a symbolic reminder of St Terman's strong connection with the parish. It is said that a miraculous bell, traditionally called a 'ronnecht' or songster, followed St Terman of its own accord all the way from Rome to Banchory.

There were no extra payments for an organist following the purchase, and the Cash Book in 1879 still lists just the precentor, unfortunately without giving his name. The 1878 minutes state that the cabinet organ was to be placed in the choir seat below the pulpit; this was the position from which the precentor led the singing, and I believe he merely played the new instrument to start the singing instead of using his voice alone. From its price, the instrument would have had little power, hence within seven years there were plans to purchase a standard church organ.

In 1885, a bazaar took place in Banchory Town Hall to raise funds to build an organ for the church. The Aberdeen Weekly Journal named over 30 dignitaries present at the opening

ceremony, and listed the stall-holders; these included a Miss Hutchison who stayed in Chipping Norton and what must have been two of her friends from Surrey. Bids from organ-builders were received in 1886, and the Wadsworth firm based in Manchester was given the job. The new organ cost £321 10s and its opening in February 1887 was reported in detail in local papers.

This time an organist was appointed, John Milne, and subsequently the organist appears to have been our only paid musician. The importance of the organist position was shown by payments being made in 1898 and 1906 for recruiting replacements after resignations; in 1906 £2 was spent on lodgings for the candidate organists.

Details on the music sung on the organ's opening are listed below. The newspaper accounts give only tune names, but I have added the praise words accompanying these tunes in the *Northern Psalter* which our church was then using.

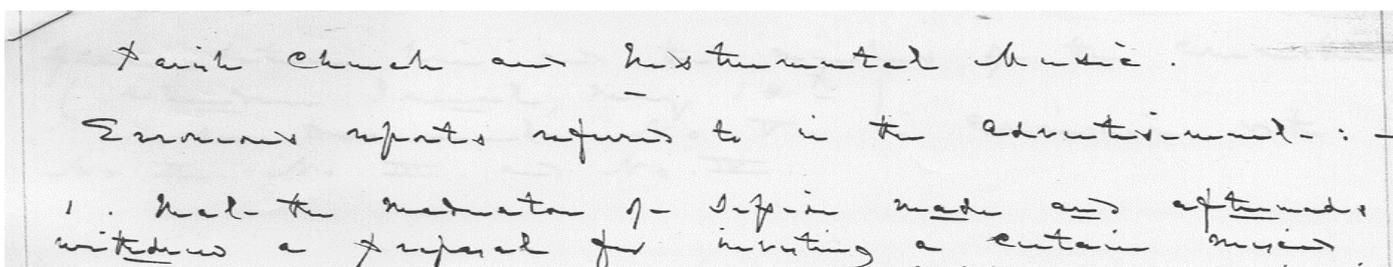
Tune Name	Words	Notes
Old Hundredth	All people that on earth do dwell	
Nicaea	Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty	
Nenthorn	Nearer my God to Thee	Tune long obsolete, words still used
St Gertrude	Onward Christian Soldiers	
Paradise	O paradise, O paradise,	Both tune and words obsolete

The organ was played by John Wardle at the opening service, with John Milne conducting. John Wardle had been sent north by the Wadsworth firm to assist installations of their organs and soon was put in charge of the firm's Aberdeen operations. He was a fine musician and played the organ in Stonehaven Episcopal Church for many years – a permanent exhibition about Wardle's career will shortly open in that church.

An unexpected idiosyncrasy of this 1887 organ was found when it had a restoration in 2008. Its wind chest deep inside had outlet holes for the pipes of 61 keys, whereas the keyboards had just 56 keys. Most British organs built before the early 1800s lacked pedals, so to provide bass notes their keyboards mostly went down lower than was needed on organs with pedals, implying that Wadsworths had given us a second-hand old wind chest in 1887.

Another indication of the importance of church music is that in 1909 an outgoing of £4 13s 6d was recorded for the choir's picnic. Such events were soon to be curtailed during the first World War, but I will detail some later social and theatrical activity of the choir in reporting the next 50 years of the East Church story.

David Welch



Here you will see Dr Hutchison's notes of May 22<sup>nd</sup> 1878, listing summarised reports on the introduction of Instrumental Music. You can see from the image the writing of the time can be difficult to interpret. The first line reads, Parish Church and instrumental music, can you read the rest?

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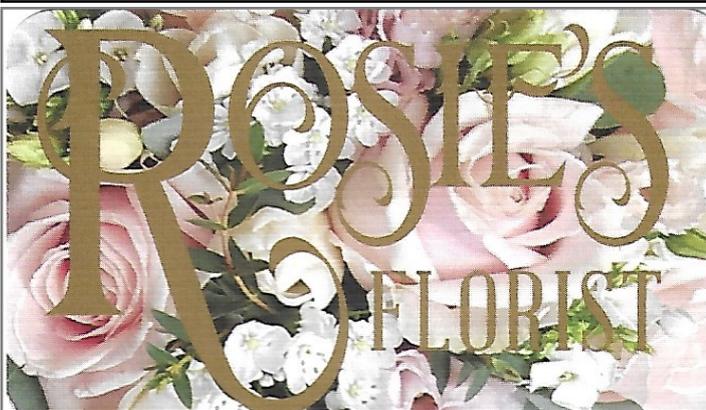
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