



The Ronnecht

SPRING EDITION **2016**

Picture designed by Steven Grant



BANCHORY EAST CHURCH

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch;.org

Scottish Charity No 011251

CCL 17629

Dear all

Do your thoughts swirl around in your head sometimes like mine do? Maybe another deadline looms or like the deadline for this magazine has actually whizzed by without a word on paper. Swirling thoughts this week as I stare at a blank sheet of paper or more accurately a page of white pixels which by the magic of binary programming I must turn black. Here goes. Enter the swirl of my thoughts. Just how will creating invisible barriers by removing white lines from roads improve road safety? Invisible barriers can make you think and leave you wondering though. There is an invisible barrier in the weather between Echt and Midmar which can stop you in your tracks. Why is it snowing here in Midmar when Echt is dry and crisp? What am I to make of that? Invisible barriers. Up a mountain with Jesus and his friends suddenly through the swirling barrier of mist the notice board outside the West church appears and an awe inspiring message of love, listen and live seems to swirl into my mind and fills it with awe. LOVE ME DO. You choose how all these barriers fall and rise protecting and exposing you to all that our great amazing sometimes unpredictable swirling ball of a loving God offers as he draws us to him.

Remember how up that mountain with Jesus, his friends saw something so amazing swirling around the feats of their ancestors and yet as they waited and wondered everything changed, an invisible barrier was crossed and as they came back down the mountain they found so many people in need. What was their response? On the mountain they were told to listen to Jesus, He was all that God had been promising his people. Now at the bottom back amongst the people they knew so well, it became clear that Jesus was not just about the past, he was there to help with shaping the future too. The disciples watched and copied Jesus as he did just that. Took the love God had given them all and served it up to the people in need. Maybe it was a grieving father and a daughter, a worried woman at a well, a wedding couple in danger of being shamed at a family party or a confused wise man or two. His friends listened, learnt of love, came down the mountain and lived the life Jesus showed us; a life of serving others.

What about us today? We continue to listen and get stuck in. Think about all the ways your East church serves the people of all generations around us. Whether it is World Mission through Kandy or Nepal, Friendship lunches, Pastoral teas, Messy church, Tom Toms or Mothers and Toddlers and many more instance like the River Festival That's what we do: listen to God and go out and put into action the love

we see shared with us through his son Jesus. How can you help him out too? St Luke 9:28-36

Keep smiling,
Your minster,
Alan

Remember details of what we have planned can be found on our Facebook page and on 'You tube'.

Friendship lunches for 2016.

The Friendship Lunches have been very well attended with large numbers enjoying food and friendship throughout the Winter and Spring sessions. April will be the last month when lunches are served on both the second and fourth Thursday. During the summer months there will be a lunch on fourth Thursday only, dates are therefore **May 26th** , **June 30th(Change of date)** , **July 28th** , **August 25th** , there will be no lunch in September. All are welcome to attend, best value in town, £3.50 for two courses plus tea or coffee. The remaining dates are as follows:- Thursday **10th** & **24th** March Thursday **14th** & **28th** April. All meals are served in the Church Hall at 12 noon

Need a Lift?

Just call the Church Office 01330 820380 if you find it difficult to get to the church and arrangements will be made for someone to pick you up and take you home again after the service (or Church Coffees)

Articles for the next edition of the magazine must be submitted by the 15th May 2016

Christian Aid Report

Christian Aid has a vision – an end to poverty – and we believe that vision can become a reality.

Christian Aid is a Christian organisation that insists the world can and must be swiftly changed to one where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. It works globally for profound changes that eradicates the causes of poverty and strives to achieve equality, dignity and freedom for all, regardless of nationality or faith.

Banchory Churches Christian Aid continues to raise funds, both for long-term development work and for emergency appeals. Forthcoming fundraising events include a day collection at the Tesco Store, Banchory; Smartie Tube coin collecting at Easter and **Christian Aid Week 15 - 21st May**. This year part of the Christian Aid Week message is '**This is the week we love every neighbour**'. Jesus calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves, and not just the ones next door or at the end of the street. Churches all over Britain will be united in putting this love in to action with collections and other events. Please pray for your local Christian Aid Group in helping Christian Aid to continue in being able to make a real difference in the fight to eradicate poverty.

A fact to consider – '**The world has enough food to feed everyone but not everyone has enough food**'. **George Montgomery**

Mystery People

*Two mysterious people
live in my house.
Somebody and Nobody
Somebody did it
And
Nobody knows who.*

AFTERNOON TEA AT THE ~~BITZ~~ EAST

THURSDAY 2 JUNE 2016

2 – 4 pm

CHURCH HALL



DRESS CODE – FANCY HATS & TIES

COST £5

PROCEEDS TO KANDY PLUS

A LITTLE GENTLE CHRISTIAN HUMOUR

'OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES!!!!'

Lot's Wife.

The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, " My Mummy looked back once while she was driving", he announced triumphantly, "And she turned into a telephone pole!"

Did Noah Fish

A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No", replied Johnny. " How could he , with just two worms."

The Lord is my Shepherd

A Sunday Schoolteacher decided to have her young class memorise one of the most quoted passages in the Bible – Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task – but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line.

On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous. When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "***The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know***"

All Men/All Girls

When my daughter,Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every member family, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks, after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls".

This soon became part of her nightly routine, to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls".

Her response, "Because everybody always finish their prayers by saying 'All Men'!"



KID'S KIRK ACTIVITIES

A picture to colour in

Happy Easter!



MORE OF 'LITTLE GENTLE CHRISTIAN HUMOUR'

Untimely Answered Prayer

During the minister's prayer one Sunday, there was a loud whistle from one of the back pews. Tommy's mother was horrified. She pinched him into silence, and, after church, asked, "Tommy, whatever made you such a thing?"

Tommy answered soberly, "I asked God to teach me to whistle, and He did!"

Being Thankful

A Rabbi said to a precocious 6 year old boy' "So your mother says your prayers for you each night? That's very commendable. What does she say?"

The little boy answered," Thank God he's in bed!"

Easter Word Search



Basket
Bonnet
Bunny
Chocolates
Daffodils

A T B H

B E N N I

B G C G P N

O C H N A S T

R E B C H R H C

ACTIONS OF IRON

Y E S W N L C P A I B S

N B A E E I O P D R B F

N Y E R T D L O E P A E

U T I S N O A H K S B A

— 1 —

B L I F H F T O L I P S

A E L D F F E N O H P B

R J Y I B A S K E T S F

H P O B D M U G J B

S Y A D N U S B

Hunt

Jellybean

Lily

Parade



Easter Eggs Flowers Windrop Hopping

Rabbit
Spring
Sunday
Tulips

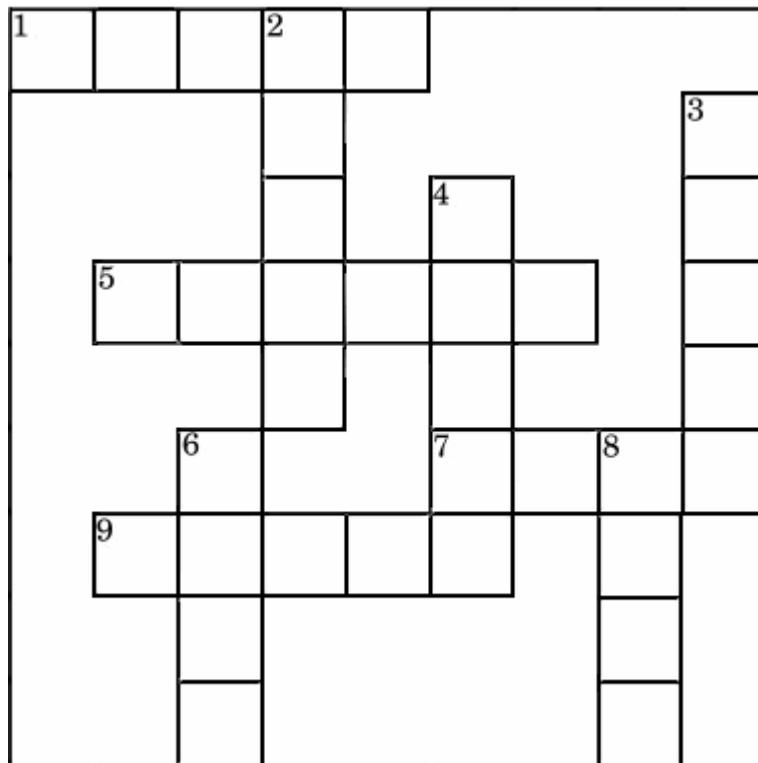
Moses and the Red Sea

Nine year old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

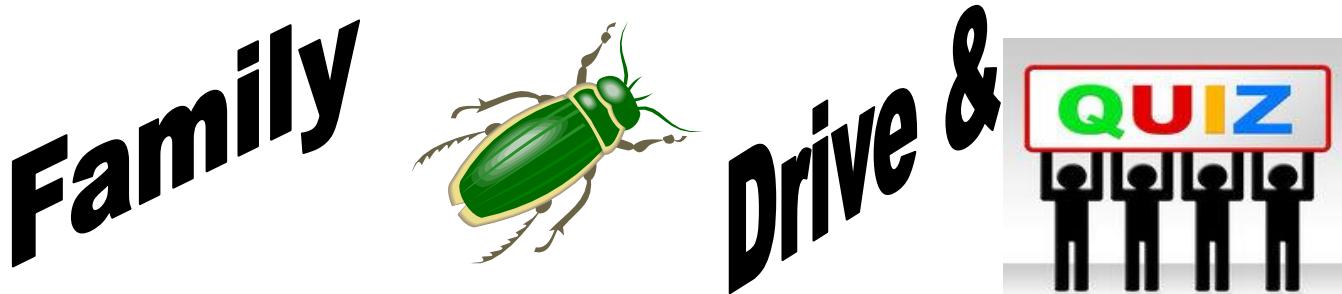
"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

EASTER CROSSWORD



<u>Across</u>	<u>Down</u>
1 Baby chicken	2 Symbol of Crucifixion of Jesus
5 Name for Resurrection	3 Chocolate and sweets to eat
7 Easter Flower	4 Easter kind of bean
9 Animal that delivers Easter goodies	6 Look for Easter eggs
	8 Another name for sheep



Friday 11th March in the Church Hall at 7pm. Light refreshments served .
Tickets £3.00 for adults, £1.00 for children from Charles Robertson,
Elders and the Church Office.

GUILD REPORT

Since the last Guild report we held a very successful coffee morning and our Guild service, at which we had a retiring offering for our project this year, which is "Street Pastors."

We also had a very interesting talk from Denise Sanders, about her work in Africa. We then heard about "Forensic Science" from our minister's wife Norma. Many of our members thoroughly enjoyed this presentation, and had not realised the work involved with forensic science. At our last meeting we had a talk from Karl Revel about "Hats," which intrigued everyone and was a very amusing evening. Our evening at the Ladies Night with the Men's Group was most enjoyable, and we really had to work hard for our lovely supper answering all the quiz questions.

Our "Christmas Fun Night" was exactly that, as we all really enjoyed ourselves, as we did at our "Wee Scottish Nicht." where our surprise guest was Rikki Fulton in his role as "Rev. I Am Jolly." We finished our 2015 session with a lovely Christmas Meal at Legion Scotland, at Ravenswood.

At the next two meetings, we have "Seated Tai Chi", which should be a very relaxing evening, and finally we will hear about the work of the "Street Pastors."

Pat and I would like to express our thanks to all our members, who have turned up through hail, rain and snow on Wednesday nights, and also to the committee for their support and hard work.

We look forward to the rest of our session, and please come and join us any Wednesday night, and you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Ray Thomson/Pat Thain

Joint Conveners.



The North of Scotland Pipe Band Championships

KGV Park on Sunday 15 May 2016

This is the second year that this event will be held in Banchory, an excellent day out for all the family, which was very well supported by the community last year.

Kandy Update

We have received the annual report from the Women's Development Centre (which can be borrowed from Johanna Bell) giving details of their work with Women and Children. We are pleased to report that Sashi Stephen the daughter in law of Pearl Stephen is now in charge of the Centre. £250 was gifted to them at Christmas time.

Besides the usual £700 sent for the work in Pupurassa an additional £250 was sent for the outreach work that is done by the Prison Visitors.

Our fund has now been renamed the Kandy Plus fund so that in addition to supporting the Scots Kirk we can also support other Christian Causes as we identify needs.

As our fellow Christian families in Syria and Iraq are being persecuted for their faith we felt moved to support them too and sent a gift to the Barnabas Fund and the following is an extract from their letter of thanks :-

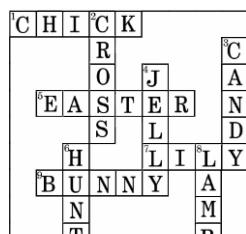
"We do appreciate the most generous gift of £250 from Banchory Ternan East Church Craft Group to the Barnabas Fund to help Christians in Syria who are suffering for their faith. We are so glad that you share our concern for these needy brothers and sisters. Gifts made through the Barnabas Fund make a real difference to people who often have nobody else to help them.

Please pray that God will bring stability and peace to the region. Ask Him to guide the world powers to be wise in their intervention. Pray for the millions of displaced people, remembering especially Christians from both Syria and Iraq whose lives are at such great risk from the Islamic State group and its efforts to eradicate Christianity from its territory.

Ask that our brothers and sisters may find strength and hope in the Lord. Pray that their faith and love may be a continuing witness to Christ in the region".

Those of us in the Tuesday Craft Group are very grateful for the support you give us in our fund raising efforts and we always welcome newcomers to the Group. We plan to have a special afternoon tea on June 2nd When I hope you will join in the fun and wear your fancy hats and colourful ties and pretend that the East Church Hall is the Ritz for an afternoon!

Johanna Bell



Answer to Crossword

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

What is.....the Congregational Board?

The Board, as the Congregational Board is often referred to, is a group of elders selected by the Kirk session who meet six times a year with a similar number of members of the Congregation elected at our Stated Annual Meeting. What do the Board do, that the session doesn't?

A quick look in the green book-our book of regulations -enlightens us like this. Every congregation has a Kirk Session which is responsible, with the minister, for spiritual matters in the parish and congregation. A Congregational Board is responsible for temporal matters.

Yes, but what does the Congregational Board look after. For Banchory East the remit of the board looks like this:

Finance: Budgets; Finances; Funding; Financial Status; Salary Reviews; Fees and Charges.

Property: Property Register; Repairs and Maintenance; Health and Safety; Annual Inspection.

Administration: Hall Use; Data Protection; Document Control; Health And Safety; Board Membership; Correspondence.

Our most recent meeting was held on 26 January 2016 and some notes of the discussion that evening are detailed below. A full minute of the board meeting is on display on the notice board in the church vestibule.

Finance:

'Principal Counters': Forbes Burn stands down as from 6th April 2016.

'Annual Accounts': Will be presented for approval at the Trustees Meeting on Sunday 7th February 2016 and to the SAM for information.

'Church Laptop Security': Checking whether possible to share cover with Church Computer.

'Flood Victims Support': Possible Retiral Offering to support the finances of Ballater Church.

'Let Us Build a House': Envelopes to be provided for donations to this Nepal appeal.

Property

'Roof Repairs': Works instructed regarding broken slates of church roof.

'Wi-Fi': Wi-Fi 'Extenders' now available to enable laptop Internet access to all areas of the church property.

'St Ternan Room': Projection screen area to be prepared on wall of St Ternan Room.

'Hall Security Lighting': Weekly testing entails resetting kitchen cooker clock. Electrician to be consulted

'Church Tower': Roof leaking badly after storms. Follow up required with contractor.

Administration

'Office secretary's Report': New bookings - Celtic Cross Nursery (2), Aberdeen Patchwork.

'Data Protection Act': Presbytery to be contacted re Data Protection Policy submitted by East Church.

'Board Membership': Caitlin Marno retired from the board. Six non-elder member replacements required by 'Stated Annual meeting'.

'Stated Annual Meeting': The date of the 2016 'SAM' confirmed as Sunday 13th March.

'Attestation of Records': 2016 inspection to take place on 23rd and 24th March in Aboyne and Stonehaven.

'Hall Tidy Day': Took place on Saturday 30th January 2016 to maximise use of the cupboards.

The date of the next meeting for ordinary business is *Tuesday 8th March 2016*.

Alan Murray for Stan Thomson, Clerk to the Board.



Parish Funerals

Mr Norman Davidson

Mr David Egan

Mr Andrew Stewart

Mr Bryan Kennedy

Mr James Thomson

The Bible in 50 words – Anon.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. God made; | 2. Adam bit; | 3. Noah arked; |
| 4. Abraham split; | 5. Joseph ruled; | 6. Jacob fooled; |
| 7. Bush talked; | 8. Moses balked; | 9. Pharoah plagued; |
| 10. People walked; | 11. Sea divided; | 12. Tablets guided; |
| 13. Promise landed; | 14. Saul freaked; | 15. David peaked; |
| 16. Prophets warned; | 17. Jesus born; | 18. God walked; |
| 19. Love talked; | 20. Anger crucified; | 21. Hope died; |
| 22. Love rose; | 23. Spirit flamed; | 24. Word spread |
| 25. God remained; | | |

Submitted by Anne Macleod.

The 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my Shepherd – That's Relationship!

I shall not want – That's Supply!

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures – That's Rest!

He leadeth me beside the still waters – That's Refreshment!

He restoreth my soul – That's Healing!

He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness – That's Guidance!

For His name sake – That's Purpose!

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death – That's Testing

I will fear no evil – That's Protection!

For thou art with me – That's Faithfulness!

Thy rod and Thy staff they will comfort me – That's Discipline!

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies – That's Hope!

Thou anointest my head with oil – That's Consecration!

My cup runneth over – That's Abundance!

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life – That's Blessing!

And I will dwell in the house of the Lord – That's Security!

Forever – That's Eternity!

2015 Accounts

The Reports and Accounts for 2015 have been completed and approved by the Church Trustees (Kirk Session and Congregational Board members). The Accounts are being checked by an Independent Examiner. It is the intention to have the Reports and Accounts for 2015 available from Sunday 6th March in advance of the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 13th March.

Let us Build a House Challenge

A challenge came from the World Mission Council, Church of Scotland in Edinburgh via Presbytery to raise at least £500 to build a house in Nepal, following the earthquake in April 2015. I am delighted to inform you that, to date, we have received £1,094 in donations; of this £721 is Gift Aided, which will add another £180.25. Also the Craft Group which raises money for Kandy and other projects they choose, have donated £500 to fund another house. This is a fantastic achievement. Thank you to everyone who donated.

Helen Carberry

Treasurer/World Mission Convenor

A NEW FUND – CHILDRENS’ AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Approximately 60% of church offerings are passed to the Church of Scotland as a matter of Church routine and policy. The remaining 40% has to be very carefully managed to fund the wide range of normal cost and expenditure items, including staff salaries, as experienced in any church of our size

It has been agreed between the Session, Board and the Church of Scotland to open a new project fund to support all the children and youth activities including the salary of the Children’s Coordinator. This fund would be exempted from the 60% contribution applied to our offerings provided it was used specifically for all costs related to children and youth.

Money contributed to this fund must be specifically given for use by the fund. We need therefore to make the members aware that if they wish to they can indicate that part or the whole of their contribution to the church be added to the children and youth project fund. We will indicate this by writing to the members and requesting that they make changes to their standing orders and decide on a

percentage of their normal contributions be allocated to the new fund or add a request in their offering envelopes to add a percentage to the new fund.

It is difficult to work out exactly what is required from each offering to fund the project, however our calculations estimate that on average between 25% and 35% of offerings should allocate sufficient funds for this work. We already have indications of support for the project and now need to give other members the opportunity to contribute.

Of course, if members wish to increase the level of their offerings specifically for the children and youth project fund then this would be gratefully received!

Mike Jamieson. Session Clerk

CrossReach contributes to new SSSC booklet

CrossReach has joined with other professional bodies and the Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) to produce a new booklet called ‘The Impact of Promoting Excellence in Social Service settings’. It features CrossReach’s dementia learning journey in Promoting Excellence. Dementia Development Officer Pamela Mackay explains more: “CrossReach has been committed to training all staff in dementia care since the early 1980s. Recent developments have helped us enhance our learning, and Promoting Excellence has really made a difference. One example was the refurbishment of our care home, Bellfield in Banchory. When plans were drawn up they didn’t include an outside garden area. Service manager, Janis Grub, spoke with developers about adding gardens that residents could access. She used her knowledge from Promoting Excellence and explained the quality of life outcomes statement: ‘People with dementia maintain their best level of physical, mental, social and emotional wellbeing’. I worked with the team to see what might work well in terms of outdoor space and signage so that was enabling and welcoming. It’s important we help people to achieve the things in life that are most important to them and engaging with Promoting Excellence helps us to do that.”

Competition Design a CrossReach Christmas card for 2016

Remember to write the name of the person or group who designed the card, age (if under age 16) and a contact person's name, address and telephone number on the back of each entry. While copyright of all entries remains with the entrants, by submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to grant an irrevocable, perpetual and worldwide licence to CrossReach Trading Ltd to use it for the purpose of their Christmas cards and any promotional material connected to that.

Closing date:
Sunday 27th March 2016 Send your entry to: Christmas Card Competition CrossReach, 47 Milton Road East, Edinburgh EH15 2SR We will print the winning entry as a card and sell it through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2016 catalogue and website.as printed Christmas Cards.

Competition Guidelines› The card must be an original design, not copied from an existing copyrighted card or clip art

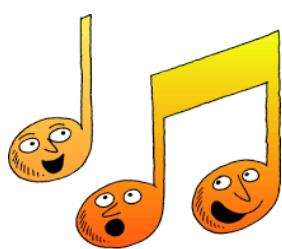
Submit your card design on a sheet of paper/card no larger than A3 size › Computer generated designs must be original and printed out as a hard copy ›so are best avoided›

Feel free to include a Greeting and/or Bible verse in your design›

If you wish your design returned, please make this clear to us and enclose an appropriate stamped addressed envelope for its return

This competition is open to all supporters of CrossReach of any age.

The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning designTextures, 3D effects or metallic colours can be difficult to reproduce in print, so are best avoided›



Music is a gift from God

Tea & Music Afternoon.

Thursday 3rd March Time 2.-
3.30pm in the Main Hall. Cost
£2.50 Music al entertainment
by Banchory academy pupils



FLOWERS IN CHURCH

Who puts them there? How is it organised?

First of all we need a rota- after all we don't need 20 flower arrangements one week and nothing for the next 19 weeks. So the flower convener makes a rota 4 times a year –but of whom? – Well luckily there are many members of the congregation who offer to give flowers, some on one occasion, others on a regular basis once or twice a year, on a Sunday nearest to their chosen day—you can you give flowers—Yes of course – we'd be delighted to have you – But I can't arrange flowers – you say – well that's no problem, we have one or two people on the Flower Committee who will do it for you, --You can choose the flowers yourself or you can give the committee money and they will purchase and arrange them for you. If you prefer you can select a date with the convener and arrange with the local florist to have your arrangement made up – the choice is yours.

Can you choose any flowers you like – we'll do our best, you can discuss it with your flower arranger - there are a few flowers which are happier in a vase than an arrangement. Can you choose any colours – the only time the colours are restricted is on Communion Sundays 4 times a year. On those days it should be white flowers and greenery only.

Next question – how much should you give – well that is up to you but if you ask us we will indicate a minimum but of course if you ask for specific expensive flowers that may cost more

Now the next obvious question is – If we have money left over, what happens to that – the answer is we need to buy oasis, tape and other bits and pieces for arranging flowers and any odd money goes on that along with any small donations we receive.

Are you getting to know us better now? There are 12 of us at present – some who only help at Easter, Harvest and Christmas, others who do a bit more, some who do a lot more.

Oh, I nearly forgot - the other job we do is dismantle all the arrangements after these special occasions and tidy up a bit.

Now I know you have one more question - what happens to the flowers after the Sunday Services – well there is a rota of people – see Lillian (church secretary) if you would like to help - who distribute them to members of the congregation to let them know we are thinking of them. At Easter and Harvest members of the flower committee make up bunches of the flowers to be distributed mainly to our senior members and that is where you come in again – we need members of the

congregation to help with this as there are a lot of bunches to be delivered all over Banchory.

Thank you for giving of your time to read this and also, hopefully, in anticipation, for your help on these special occasions,

Mary Paris Flower Convener

Friday Coffee Appeal

The Convener of the Friday Coffee's, is looking for volunteers. This involves providing baking, serving coffees, teas and eats, or working in the kitchen. If enough volunteers offer their service then you would be required about once every two months. The coffee etc, takes place in the West Church Hall. If interested contact Mary Marshall, Telephone number 825042.

MEN'S GROUP

Your Men's Group closed 2015 with an enjoyable Christmas Dinner on the 9th December at Scott Skinners. The tradition of singing Christmas carols was continued accompanied by Margaret Smith on the keyboard.

We meet every second and fourth Wednesday and recently enjoyed talks from Keith Jones and Iain Craig. Keith related the history of the Railways of North East Scotland and the Deeside Line and many memories were brought back with his collection of old photos of long gone stations, including Banchory. Iain gave us a most interesting and humorous talk on 'Tales from the Bank'. No, not about fishing but of his time in the Clydesdale Bank as he worked his way up to being a bank manager at towns and villages in the north of Scotland.

On the 10th February we entertained our Church Guild members with a quiz evening and light refreshments that was much enjoyed by all. Our next two speakers are Dr Alison Burke on the 24th February with 'Behind the Scenes at Drum Castle' and on the 9th March, the Rev David Greenwood from St Ternan's Episcopal Church on 'From Policing to Pastoring'.

On **Saturday 12th March** we will be holding our Coffee Morning and then closing our season on Wednesday 23rd March with our A.G.M where John Kaighin will give a talk on the 'Mercy Ships'.

We are always looking for new members so if you wish further information about joining us, please contact **George Montgomery on 01330 825625**.

JOURNEY TO THE FORGOTTEN ISLANDS OF THE INDIAN OCEAN - Part One

After an uneventful flight by Super Vc10 from London Heathrow we were overhead the Nairobi National Park on descent to Embakasi Airport with the majestic Mount Kilimanjaro in the distance, standing in the morning sunshine. To arrive at an unknown airport with ten large pieces of baggage destined for yet another country was not something I relished but the customs officers were most interested in my final destination and passed me through without opening one of them.

This is my second permanent overseas posting as a BOAC officer at the age of 29 years. My task was to set up a new office in Port Victoria, Mahe, Seychelles, equip the office, engage and train the local staff both in the town office and at the new airport which would be completed within 3 months of my arrival. The BOAC operation in Seychelles came under the control of the larger operation in Nairobi, Kenya and that office supplied all the necessary stationery and equipment required including a turquoise blue Mini Minor for my use. My responsibility was to ensure the safe carriage of this assortment of materials required for my posting. Seychelles would have one weekly Vc10 service from London, calling at Nicosia and Nairobi – first flights were fully booked for months ahead.

At the end of ten days stay in Nairobi I hastily collected a further ten pieces of baggage and found myself being *weighed in* at the local railway station for the 13 hours trip to Mombasa. Imagine the indignity of being weighed in personally, with all the baggage, and having to pay 200 kilos of excess baggage charges. I had 300 kilos in total by this time. The weight was too great for the East African Airways local flight to Mombasa hence the rail journey. I wasn't complaining and rather looking forward to my *surface* trip. At exactly 18.30hrs our train roared out of the station at 15 mph and headed east to the coast.

I had been allocated a little sitting room for my sole use, which converted into a sleeping compartment at night. The train, of East African Railways, was clean and comfortable but First Class is recommended. A most delicious dinner was served in a Victorian dining car with fresh carnations on every table. The only other European in sight invited me to join him for our meal and related great tales of farming life in Kenya's pre-war days and during the Mau Mau Uprising.

On retiring for the night I was charged 6/- for the deluxe mattress and 2/- for the pillow. We sped on through the night at an average of 40 mph. Rather a disturbed night during which 200 BOAC tickets, which I was guarding under my pillow, had jabbed me several times. The blank tickets were the most precious items in my accompanying cargo! I viewed first light in the Tsavo National Park. After leaping out of bed on to parcels of training materials, several times, I saw herds of elephants and giraffes racing alongside the railway track. Several miles later a herd of Hartebeests took no notice of the train and continued to feed. Just after 09.00hrs next morning we arrived in Mombasa.

WILLIAM A. CUTHBERTSON

JUNE 30TH 1971

END OF PART ONE – PART TWO WILL FOLLOW IN THE NEXT EDITION

CHURCH OUTING TO LIVERPOOL



It's not too late to join the party of 20 or so congregation members already booked to go to Liverpool for a weekend of cathedral and abbey visits, sightseeing, and many interesting new experiences in one of England's finest cities. We must not forget a visit to the home of the Beatles and all the Liverpool landmarks they have incorporated in their famous songs!

We will travel via Lake Windermere on the outward journey, staying one night at Grange over Sands, and enjoy a scenic return route via Melrose Abbey and the Scottish Border Country on the homeward journey. A luxury coach will be at our disposal for the duration and Norma Murray, a native of Liverpool, will be our guide.

The dates are Friday 24th to Monday 27th June and the cost per person, sharing a double or twin bedded room, is approximately £389.00. Accommodation is already reserved at the Cumbria Grand Hotel in Grange over Sands and at Jury's Hotel, on the Albert Dock, in Liverpool. All meals except lunches are included and a picnic lunch is recommended on the outward journey from Banchory. The trip is being organised for us by Brightwater Holidays.

Please don't delay now if you wish to take advantage of this special opportunity. Visit or call the Church Office and request a registration form from Lillian. We are keen to finalise the numbers within the next few weeks and we will be delighted if have a few more people join us. The invitation has been extended to the other churches in Banchory. If you know of anyone else who might join you and make up the party the invitation is open to all. When your registration form is received your details will be passed on to the travel company and they will be in direct contact with you.

With best wishes from **BILL CUTHERBERTSON**

The Knots Prayer

Dear God,

Please untie the knots in my mind, My heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, The can nots, and the do nots

That I have in my mind Erase the will nots, may nots

Might notes that may find a home in my mind.

Release me from the could nots, would nots,

And should notes that obstruct my life.

And most of all, Dear God.

I ask that you remove from my mind,

My heart and my life all of the ‘am nots’

That I have allowed to hold me back,

Especially the thought that



Church Calendar

Groups that use the Church Hall on a Regular Basis

Mondays

9.30am -11.30am Tom Toms

8pm – 9.30pm Scottish Country Dancing Beginners.

Tuesdays

9.30am – 11.30am Mother & Toddler

1pm -4pm Craft Group

7pm – 9pm The Rock

Wednesdays

7pm – 8pm Effective Pilates

7.30pm – 9.30pm Guild or Men's Group (Oct – April)

Thursdays

2nd & 4th 12 noon – 1pm Friendship Lunch

1.30 – 3.30pm Craft Group (contact office)

6.30pm – 8.30pm Weight Watchers

7.30pm – 9pm Choir

9pm The Vigil (John & Anne Music)

Fridays

9.30am – 10.30am Sublime Pilates

6.30pm – 8pm Fusion

Who's Who in the Church

Minister	Rev Dr Alan Murray Tel. 01330 822481 AJSMurray@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Mike Jamieson Tel: 01330 822712 mike.jamieson@btinternet.com
Children' Co-ordinator	Vacant
Interim Youth Co-ordinator	Chloe Hutchison Tel; 07432158163 chutchison9@hotmail.co.uk
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Clerk to the Board	Stan Thomson Tel: 01330 825098 stanthomson@hotmail.com
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River Festival Community Ceilidh

in aid of Christian Aid

Saturday 11th June 2016 7pm - 11pm

In the Scout Hut

Music by Clachan Yell

Tickets Adults £12 Concessions £8

Family Ticket for 2 Adults and up to 2 Children £30

Includes Stovies

BYOB

Tea & Coffee will be on sale

