



The Ronnecht

SPRING EDITION

2017



BANCHORY EAST CHURCH

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch.org

Scottish Charity No 011251

CCL 17629

Dear Friends

I've been doing quite a bit of thinking recently. Always a bit worrying, I know, but not usually dangerous. So take heart, read on and see what you think?

It seems to my simple mind that the world really doesn't want much, just to be governed by the arduously established values of justice, peace and compassion. And as I thought that, I also wondered where else had I read of a world with a similar desire? Yes, you're ahead of me, it's the story of the Bible. Read the story from creation to new creation and you discover it is all about a new way of living built arduously by establishing the values of justice, peace and compassion. It turns out that coming to church is not about wearing the right hat or whether you wear trainers or high heels. It is about gathering with others who want to focus on God and find out just how we can be witnesses in the world we live in from Monday to Saturday of the world we investigate and admire and that challenges us on a Sunday.

But church is not just about Sunday, is it? At the East church we run many events covering all age groups during the week where you can discover the scriptural values of justice, peace and compassion on display. Think of our Friendship lunches, Crafty church, Tea and music afternoons, The Guild, The Men's group, Messy church, Fairtrade, Christian Aid amongst other.

As we come closer to Lent, I'd like to invite you to a six week course of engagements with how the stories we read from the bible, play out these themes of justice, peace and compassion in the world of the bible, but also in our lives. Picture any story from the bible you'd like to, then, imagine yourself standing in front of a mirror with the story playing out behind you. Imagine it and you'll feel as if you are in the story too. All you do is turn your head and run and join in, feeling all the emotion, the action and consequences for justice, peace and compassion of what is happening in the story. Now when you leave the mirror and go through your front door you will take with you into the world something of the Bible's tale of justice, peace and compassion. What is the event I'm speaking about? It's our six-week series of Bible studies for Lent that Janie has put together. Details are on the order of service or can be found by contacting Janie. Go on, come along, look in the mirror and immerse yourself in that world on which we want to base our daily lives with friends, family and politicians.

Your minister, Alan

Remember details of what we have planned can be found on our new website www.banchoryeastchurch.com and our Facebook page

Need a Lift?

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

Friendship lunches for 2017.

March 9th & 23rd

April 13th & 27th

Below is a photograph of all the ladies who prepared, cooked and serve the Christmas Lunch on 8th December.



Bellfield Memorial Rose Garden Update

As further funding is being sought to allow plans to be fully undertaken, the work has been rescheduled to start in April. The proposed design will make a huge difference to the present rose garden as well as the somewhat messy grassed area at the bottom of the Bellfield driveway which is presently used to park cars. Total funding will hopefully be secured soon

Margaret Paterson.

Men's Group Report

The Men's Group continues to meet in the evenings on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We recently had a most interesting talk from John

Reid about Banchory past and present; many of our members had their own recollections of some of the old businesses, premises and characters John referred to. And on the 8th February we entertained the ladies of The Guild who joined us for a Scots Quiz Evening; many thanks to our quizmaster, Bill Cuthbertson and his able assistant, Grant Lawrence. A most enjoyed evening was had by all. Our Annual Coffee morning is to be held on **Saturday 11th March** in the Hall and we will close our 'season' with the AGM on the 22nd March.

We are still on the lookout for new members; if you are interested then please contact *George Montgomery* or come along to one of our meetings.



Christian Aid Report (*Banchory Churches Christian Aid Group*)

Your Banchory Churches Christian Aid Group is currently making plans for some fundraising events this year. On Saturday 22nd April we will be holding a one day collection at Tesco store. Christian Aid Week runs from Sunday 14th to Saturday 20th May and on Friday 19th we will be having our usual plant, book and baking stalls in the Sanctuary at the West Church. The Friday Coffees Team is kindly supporting us with their help on the 19th.

Nejebbar's story. Some of the money raised during Christian Aid Week will be going to support refugee families in Europe. Here is the story of one, Nejebbar, from Afghanistan. Having had some relatives blinded, others murdered and themselves threatened by the Taliban, Nejebbar with her teacher husband and young family fled the violence and arrived in a refugee camp in Greece expecting to stay about ten days. They are still there six months later. Their only protection against the wind and rain is their tent. There is no school for the children and despite one of her own children being ill, Nejebbar, who is the rock of her family and holds them together through all this uncertainty, has welcomed in two young brothers who do not know where their parents are, or even if they are alive.

'We still have some hope for our children's future,' says Nejebbar. 'We only want a peaceful life. We want our children to go to school. The most important thing is our children.'

Please remember Nejebbar and families, like theirs, in your prayers. We look forward to your continuing support at our events and would be pleased for new members to join our group. If interested please contact *George Montgomery*.

Guild; Be Bold, Be Strong. 'Go in Joy'

Since the last magazine article, we have had a busy time. We all enjoyed our Christmas fun night and we had a lovely Christmas dinner at Inchmarlo Tearoom.

The speakers we have heard have been excellent, and very interesting. Gill Lyth gave a passionate talk on our project 'Let's Stick Together', Andrew Reid inspired us about his work with 'Inspire', and Dr Mike Stevens gave us a wonderful insight into the current situation in Nepal, before and after the earthquake.

Our 'Our wee Scottish Nicht' was a very happy night, when we were entertained by three local youngsters, Ewan on the bagpipes, and the wonderful dancing by Rosa and Georgene.

On the ladies' night at the Men's Group, we all had good fun with a Scott's Quiz followed by a lovely supper.

On a sad note, our honorary Member, Ella Nicholson, passed away suddenly on Sunday, 29th January, 2017. Pat gave this lovely tribute to Ella at a recent Guild meeting.

"The Rev. Bill and Ella came to Banchory in 1969, when Bill became our minister here at the East Church. The couple had three girls, Sandra, Jenny and Marjorie. Sandra by this time was married, only Jenny and Marjorie still living at home.

Ella joined what was then known as the Women's Guild, and quickly became President, a post she held for eighteen years. (Six terms of three years). She was a very popular President. When Bill retired, Ella gave up her post as President, but remained a very active and loyal member of the Guild, until she was no longer able to attend meetings.

Ella still remained very interested in the Guild right to the end of her life. Last year, at Ray's suggestion, she was made an honorary member after sixty-seven years in the Guild. She was delighted about this.

As part of our 130th Anniversary celebrations, although Ella could not attend, she was presented, much to her delight, with a long service badge and certificate.

Ella was a lovely lady and will be missed by us all."

The Guild continues to flourish, and in April, we will be planning the new session for 2017/18, when our new theme will be 'Go in Love.'

Please feel free to come along to any Guild meeting, where you will be assured of a warm welcome.

Joint Conveners:

Ray Thomson and Pat Thain.

A Letter from Rev. Janie Stuart

Dear friends,

What is Lent? Lent is a period of time before Easter set aside as a season of soul-searching, fasting, abstinence and repentance commemorating Jesus' time in the wilderness. It runs from Ash Wednesday (this year it is March 1) to Holy Saturday and so includes forty weekdays. The forty days reflect Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for his own time of spiritual reflection and fasting. He was tempted while in the wilderness, and many see this time as his preparation for ministry.

In the early church Lent was a special time when new converts were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism on Easter. This year, I hope you will walk a journey of reflection and maybe try a new thing. Here are several ideas:

1. *Devotions*: Lent can be a time of focusing on the meaning of the Christian life. Or on how the scriptures speak specifically to you at the present time. You may decide that you commit to reading one book in the Bible, use the lectionary for Lent, or pick an online devotional.
2. *Prayer*: Lent is a perfect time to develop or strengthen a discipline of regular prayer. You can pray for everything from what you want or need to praises and thanksgiving, there's really no wrong way to talk to God. You might keep a prayer journal during lent, and then revisit it during Easter to see they ways some of your prayers have been answered.
3. *Fasting or Giving up*: Some people choose to "give up" sweets or some other food, others give up going out to eat; others refrain from social media or video games. It's not a penance but more of a symbol of "dying to the self" or of simplifying. Fasting or Giving up is a spiritual practice, especially when you replace what you "give up" with something like prayer when you find yourself tempted.
4. *Giving Box*: Select a charity that helps those in need. As a family unit, you might decide to put your "change" in the box each day to give to others.
5. *Connecting to Others*: Lent is a good reminder to re-connect with those who have been important relationships in your life. You can write a series of letters, make phone calls, or even regularly tell people how grateful you are for their presence in your life.

Whatever you decide about Lent, take time to sense the presence of God in your life and how God is working through you. Journey with your heart, soul, and mind! Open your eyes to the world God calls us to care for.

Take Care,

Janie

Can I have a pet.....?

For as long as I can remember, I have dreamt of having my own pet. “Mum, please can we get a dog?” I asked for the 100th time that week. “No, I’ve told you already!” is her reply.

So I thought about possibly asking Santa for a dog if Mum and Dad kept refusing. I also thought of other pets we could maybe get. Maybe a cat ... no, they disappear too often. A fish? A little boring. I know – a guinea pig! Actually, no because they live outside. Mmm running out of options. There would only be one other pet I would want if I were not going to be allowed a dog – a hamster! Why did I not think of this option before?

“Mum What about a hamster?” I asked, after going through all these options in my head. “Maybe” she replied

Christmas Eve had finally arrived, and I could not wait until Christmas Day. Presents to open, spending the day with my family, gobbling up a delicious Christmas dinner.

I sat up in bed, I suddenly remembered something. It’s Christmas!!!! I raced through to wake everyone up. I opened all my gifts. My favourite present was probably one of the first ones I opened – my brand new Lego set! Just as I’m about to move away from my Santa gifts, I realized there was one present left. I couldn’t wait to open it, hang on a minute, half of it was my red wrapping paper and half was wrapped in my brother’s blue wrapping paper. What could it be? There was only one thing Santa hadn’t brought me ... my hamster! Together my brother and I tore away the paper, we looked confused. A hamster cage? Hang on, there was a note stuck to the side:

‘Dear Ellis and Ethan,

Here is a cage for your new pet. I don’t like carrying small animals in my sleigh as they sometimes go missing! Instead I have given you some money to go and choose your own hamster – take good care of it!

Love Santa xxx’

One week later, we go to the pet shop and choose our very own hamster. She was the cutest little thing I had ever seen and we realized on the way back home, she was full of personality and character! We decided to name her Skittle, after my favourite sweeties. We have had so much fun with her and I love her so much. She loves nothing more than crawling all over my brother and me and even attempts to give us kisses sometimes!!!

All my hard work paid off ... maybe next Christmas it’ll be a puppy!

Ellis Flett

Tom Toms 2017

The New Year is traditionally a time for new beginnings and fresh starts with a look to the future. With that in mind, Tom Toms are delighted to welcome new members, and especially new babies to the family. We look forward to getting to know everyone and see the little ones thrive and enjoy the fun.

We are grateful that Tom Toms continues to be a popular destination on a Monday morning. The happy noise of chatter and singing can certainly brighten a dark winter day.... and that includes the team of helpers!

Thanks to the regular support of our families, in 2016 we were able to donate £1200 towards the church to help with heating and lighting. We also donated £200 to the Nansato Nursery Trust, and £200 to Scottish Spina Bifida Association; two charities close to our hearts.

We were very grateful to Ann Hattan, one of our helpers, who generously donated £100 for our Christmas books issued as a gift from a “special visitor” at our Christmas party. As an author of a children’s book herself, Ann shares our enthusiasm for books and was keen to support a group she enjoys so much.

Also, after applying to “Wildfox Events” who staged the Etape Royale cycling event in Deeside last September, we were successful in receiving a donation of £100 to go towards more children’s chairs for the hall. They have a policy for supporting local groups and for this we are extremely grateful.

So, in the words of some of our favourite songs, we “Thank the Lord for this fine Day”; he has indeed “The Whole world in his Hands” and we will endeavour to “Let His Light Shine” every Monday morning as we sing, clap and play our way through “If you’re happy and you know it” and “The Wiggly Woo” among others! Welcome to Tom Toms!

Ruth Howarth

Crafty Church

Crafty Church date for your diary.

16/3, 20/4, 18/5 and 15/6.

In response to requests the timing of these will be altered with commencement at **13; 00hrs** to conclude at **15; 00hrs**. This time change is to accommodate those who have children or grandchildren to collect from school and hopefully will allow more to come along, join in have fun and enjoy great fellowship.

Crafty Church is open to all, young and old, male or female, Church member or not, so put the dates in your diaries and participate. You won't regret it.

Any questions, suggestions or advice please have a wee word with me.

Charles Robertson

Word Search

Find the hidden words listed below

G	Z	I	E	X	P	U	D	B
R	K	H	G	I	H	T	A	S
J	E	Y	W	T	A	C	T	I
L	J	G	V	O	K	O	S	O
L	F	K	N	F	E	Q	I	D
U	F	A	R	I	H	N	R	E
K	O	L	B	X	F	C	W	N
S	O	S	Q	S	H	I	N	M
Y	T	B	H	V	M	G	R	P
R	U	C	Z	M	T	A	L	W

TOE: FOOT: SHIN: THIGH: FINGER:

WRIST: ARM: BACK: SKULL:

G	I	X	T	O	W	T	J
G	O	A	H	J	Q	O	V
Y	N	D	B	B	K	O	T
T	C	F	I	U	M	S	I
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Z	D	P	E	Y	L	R	G
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GOD IS NEVER TOO BUSY TO LISTEN TO US

What Children Say!!!

Daughter; "Daddy, why do you close your eyes and bow your head for a moment before you give the sermon?"

Daddy, "Because, my dear, I'm asking God for help"

Daughter, "Then why doesn't he?"

A four year old girl was learning to say the Lord's Prayer. She was reciting on her own without help from her mother. She said, "And lead us not into temptation, bur deliver us some e-mails. Amen"



Parish Funerals

Mrs Elizabeth Kemp

Mr Dennis Parr

Mrs Christine Rhodes

Mrs Ella Hadden

Mrs Mary Thomson

Mr Alexander Duncan

Mrs Helen Smith

Mr Lindsay Ogston

Mrs Jean Chivas

Mr Harold Farquhar

Mrs Margaret Cooper

Mrs Mary Marr

Mrs Ella Nicholson

New Members -

Certificate of Transference:

Mrs May Gray, Mansefield Place from St Vigeans, Arbroath

Financial Report

The Annual Report and Accounts are almost complete. They have first to be accepted by the Trustees, (Kirk Session and Congregational Board members) then examined by an independent examiner.

Copies will be available from the Church office after the 31 March 2017.

'Only Green Will Do'

My world is tinged with green. It can only be green. It can't be red; it most certainly can't be blue. It has to be green. Not just any green. A specific shade of green.

You would never for one minute think, that colour could be so important. So, important that it causes grown men to act like children. Testosterone levels rising exponentially at the mere mention of the colour competition. To you and I (and a large percentage of the community), the colour is the only obvious difference. How could we be so wrong?

Many of you may have already guessed. But for the benefit of the majority, I'm talking about a tractor. Not just any tractor, the green tractor. The John Deere Tractor.

The John Deere is ruler of my household. Almost every toy model in our house is a John Deere. Lots of photos, drawings, magazines and clothes also have green tractors plastered across them.

Long before I met Michael, I would dread the sight of a tractor. A hold up in the road. If I'm being honest I still dread the sight. The only difference now being that I can think like the farmer. Ignorance is a farmer's nightmare. A large proportion of road users have no idea how much space a Tractor needs. How they can't quite turn like a car. How difficult it is to navigate an inconsiderately parked car. When met face on, unfortunately lots of people panic. It's the life of a tractor driver. With strict instructions I have become a pre-thinker who understands the dilemma of the guy behind the wheel.

To the ordinary person, they all have 4 big scary wheels that look like they may squash anything in their path. They have lots of power and make lots of noise. That's the theory.

But I'm afraid there is so much more to it than that. If I dare to mention a tractor is a tractor, I launch a full-scale discussion into the reasons why it's a John Deere and not anything else. Just why they are the best and exactly how they would choose them hands down. And that's just from the kids!

In truth, the Tractor is a wonderful invention. The trusty steed forgone for the fuel consuming beast. Some of these machines are massive. Their front wheel can be larger than me. Even the one that sits in our drive is considerably huge. I strain my neck looking up at Michael inside. Getting onto the first step is a pull yourself up kind of job. Made even more difficult by a 2-year-old dangling round my neck.

But none the less they are now essential. Life without them would be nearly impossible in the modern day. We could never cope with the current population without them. They have become the background to food production.

Indeed, we owe our thanks to the humble tractor. But in our case the Humble John Deere. Because, indeed, nothing does run like a Deere!

Sarah Reid

Articles for the next edition of the magazine must be submitted to the editor by the 15thMay 2017

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS

(This interesting piece was apparently penned about the 1990s)

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness ...you are more fortunate than the million who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are fortunate, more than three billion people in the world can't.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ...you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful....you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder ... you are blessed because you can offer comfort.

If you can read this message, you just received a double blessing in that someone was thinking of you, and furthermore, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.

Church Story !!

A preacher was completing a temperance service: with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." With even greater emphasis he said, "If I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." He sat down.

The song leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365; '*Shall we gather at the river?*'"

A Thought to Ponder over

Men and women are able creatures; they have made over 32 million laws and yet haven't improved the Ten Commandments.

Skittle the Hamster



The Green Tractor



Tom Tom's



Mrs Nicholson with her Guild Certificate



Church Calendar

Groups that use the Church Hall on a Regular Basis

Mondays

9.30am -11.30am Tom Toms

Tuesdays

9.30am – 11.30am Mother & Toddler

1pm -4pm Craft Group

7pm – 9pm The Rock

Wednesdays

1.30 -2pm. Prayer Meeting

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

Thursdays

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

2-4.30pm Crafty Church (3rd Thursday of the Month)

1.30 – 3.30pm Craft Group (contact office)

7.30pm – 9pm Choir

9pm The Vigil (John & Anne Music)

Our church calendar is now online at

www.banchoryeastchurch.com/calendar

Who's Who in the Church

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AJSMurray@churchofscotland.org.uk

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Easter Services

9th April Palm/Passion Sunday 10am

13th April Joint Maundy Thursday Communion service at Banchory West Church 7.30pm

14th April Walk with the cross 7.30am from Banchory East Church

14th April Good Friday Service Banchory East Church 7.30pm

16th April Platties Service 9am
Breakfast 9.30am
Morning Worship 10.30am

Taize Musical Evenings

John Montgomery is inviting you to enter the Lent season with a series of Taize Music at the Episcopal Church, at 7.30pm on Tuesdays 28th February; 14th & 28th March