



# The Ronnecht

Spring Edition 2019



I am the way,  
the truth and  
the light

John 14:6

**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 Editor

Happy new year!

We are back after a fun packed Christmas period; ready to bring you the Spring Edition of The Ronnecht magazine.

This is my last edition as Editor of the Ronnecht, but I look forward to continuing to contribute at



the Ronnecht Headquarters under our next Editor. I'd like to take this opportunity to truly thank all the people who have helped me over the last few editions. Many hands/minds make easy magazine publishing.

Spring is a hopeful season full of transformation and change; from darkness to light, from cold to warmth, from grey to bursts of colour. New life and new beginnings. As we approach Easter we remember that Jesus died, was buried and rose again. So that we can have eternal life.

In this edition of the magazine we are looking at Community and Fellowship. We hope to highlight that we are a Community Church where everyone is welcome at all of our events.

It has been truly inspiring to look at the wonderful work that the people of our church are involved in throughout our community. The love and compassion shown, the dedication and commitment to helping others is humbling! We aim to delve a little more into what this work is, what it feels like and means to the people involved in the various projects in our community, and share our findings with you.

We hope you enjoy it.

Lisa McCombie

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## A message from your Minister

Dear Friends

When did you first taste yoghurt? Can you remember where you were? I remember vividly. My mother produced yoghurt in our airing cupboard in the late 1960's. An aunt had discovered it in France and brought back the recipe. At the time I lived in the orchard of England, Kent, but never questioned why we flavoured our yoghurt with berries of all colours rather than use the apples that grew in our orchard. Maybe it seems strange to ask about yoghurt, but recently I got talking to someone and we realised that within our life time yoghurt had gone from a rather difficult to get treat to an ordinary plentiful almost staple food. Just how many breakfasts would be all the poorer if pioneers like my aunt had not buckled down for her cause and showed us the delight of yoghurt?

I have been involved in another breakfast themed conversation recently. This time one of the members of Birse and Feughside sent me a prayer or is it a poem or just a wish? It was accompanied by a short note saying, "this is the type of prayer that will appeal to you." It looks at favourite

breakfast foods, ordinary aspects of our every day life and then ponders on what we can learn from them. It asks us questions not really about breakfast but about ourselves. Are we like Porridge or are we like cornflakes? Don't be lightweight and brittle like cornflakes or stiff and stodgy like porridge, but be warm

LORD  
grant that we may not be like  
CORNFLAKES  
lightweight brittle and cold  
but like  
PORRIDGE  
warm comforting and full of  
natural goodness.  
grant that we may not be like  
PORRIDGE  
stiff stodgy and hard  
but like  
CORNFLAKES  
crisp fresh and ready  
to serve.

and comforting and full of natural goodness like porridge or be crisp, fresh and ready to serve like cornflakes. Cleverly, it makes the point that the breakfast foods are different and yet both have behaviours to praise and offer opportunities to develop. "Just like people", the person who gave it to me said. We are all different and as we work together in life we can celebrate the differences as we learn from each other.

Another conversation; this time at Dunnottar church one communion Sunday. The worship leader produced the drawing of a man at prayer reproduced above and told how she had received it from a nun whom she'd met at work a few years back. The nun would ride her bicycle in her flowing habit with a flute tucked into a pocket to bring music to all she met. That nun is now the last of her superfluity, as a group of nuns is described in the medieval book of St. Albans. The convent has closed and she lives in a small house with a little chapel attached. Within the chapel is this drawing produced in 1914 by her father when she was a girl living in Egypt. She is now 92 and describes herself as feeling "O'er lang

kept". She spends much of her time in prayer in her chapel with this drawing on her wall. She commented that "while she doesn't remember who the man was, maybe a gardener, or a man on the street or someone glimpsed through the mosque gates," it helps her focus on prayer. "His stance, his ordinary act of hands open before God epitomises prayer," she wrote.

People and breakfast cereals may be different, but we can all encourage each other through ordinary little ways of living each day, can't we? The psalmist writes in Psalm 19 "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer." When we pray we don't need fancy words and when we work things through with each other whether outside or inside the church, it is our motive, our heart before God, that is important as we go about this God-given expectation called living together.

Your minister, Alan



Man at prayer, Cairo 1914

## Church Noticeboard



Congratulations to Jennifer and Owen on the birth of **Joshua James Rudge Littlejohn**

On 11th Feb 2019

A brother for Olivia and Benjamin



Congratulations to Chloe and Tom Spencer on the arrival of their beautiful daughter

**Cooper Rome Spencer**

On 5th January 2019



Congratulations to Alison and James Thacker on the arrival of **Abigail Dawn** and to the new Grandparents **David and Liz Culshaw**

**Abigail Dawn Thacker**

was born on 9th February



**Jeffry Rhodes and Penelope Imogen Johnson**

Married on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2019

At Banchory East church

### Ronnecht Archives

An archive of past magazines are now held at the church and can be viewed by anyone who is interested by contacting Lillian at the Church office



**Amy Pierce - Associate Minister (Youth-BJYP)**

On 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019, Amy celebrated communion with the East Church congregation. This was her last service with us as associate minister (youth) because Amy is moving and will be inducted as Parish minister into the vacant charge of Birse and Feughside on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019. Thank you for all the happy and thoughtful times you have shared with us over the years. We will miss you, but know you are moving to a supportive, laughter-filled congregation who quite simply enjoy being part of God's church and are waiting to welcome and encourage you in your exciting, new ministry.

# Church Noticeboard



Congratulations to **Norah Esslemont** on her long service award with the Guild. Nora has been a proud member of the Guild for 50 years



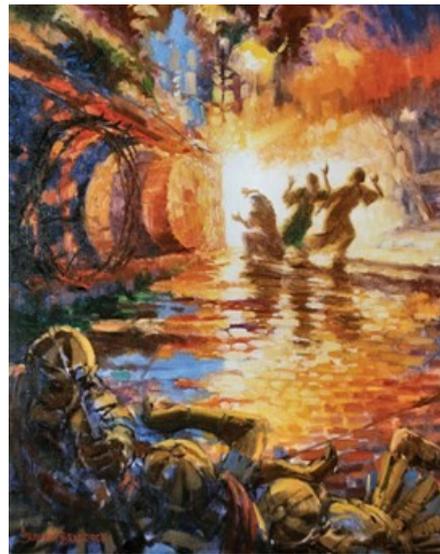
A very warm welcome to our new members **Alan and Henna Cundill** who are pictured here with their two children Peter and Andrew



**John Wills** has been awarded a British Empire Medal, an honour awarded for 'hands on' service to the community

John will receive this medal for his services to trampolining in the North east of Scotland at the Queen's Garden Party, Hollyrood House on 3rd July

Congratulations John



## Family Group

We are starting a new group during school hours where we plan to undertake crafts and activities in a relaxed atmosphere without children

First session **Wednesday 27th March** at 10am

## Easter cake decorating

The group is open to everyone with a small fee to cover costs, a creche will be available, places must be booked in advance.

For more details and to book a place please contact

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



Jennifer Murray and Issie Bradley will give a concert of songs involving "Dreamers" on 7th April at 3pm in the church

## Parish Deaths

James Taylor	30 September 2018
John Worthy Musselwhite	22 November 2018
Freda Murray	31 December 2018
Carl-Ann Hay	1 January 2019
Janette Brebner	31 January 2019



### Freda Murray - an inspirational woman: a published poet.

Funeral services are individual celebrations of people whom we miss and love. Each of them is different and often includes words chosen by the minister and family such as these famous comforting words of Jesus from John's gospel.

“Let not your heart be troubled, you believe in God, believe also in me. Peace is my parting gift to you, my own peace such as the world cannot give. Set your troubled hearts at rest and banish your fears.”



Planning a funeral also often involves including specific details requested by our loved ones. People leave instructions for particular hymns, bible readings or famous poems to be included around which family and friends can hang their own memories.

But few funerals are like Freda Murray who died on 31<sup>st</sup> December and left us with her own published poems to use.

Her family has agreed that we reproduce two of them here.

#### PEACE

By Freda Murray

Yes, here I will rest content, when my life is done and spent  
 My native hills surrounding me, their sentinel to keep  
 Enduring, watching over my everlasting sleep.  
 In the Summer the leafy boughs will shade the stone  
 above my head.  
 In Autumn chilly winds will blow, the trees, their leaves  
 will shed.  
 In Wintertime the snow will fall, a blanket for my bed  
 In Spring new buds will burst with joy their foliage soon  
 to spread.  
 And the river will keep flowing, forever on and on.  
 And the world will keep on going, when I am dead and  
 gone.  
 So if you gaze upon the spot where I shall finally lie.  
 Remember I once trod the earth and saw the same  
 great sky.  
 But I beg thee, do not weep for me,  
 For all around life springs.  
 My time was but an interlude in nature's scheme of  
 things.

#### THINK OF ME

By Freda Murray

Think of me sometimes, when  
 The snow falls silent on the ben  
 And the Deer come lower down the  
 glen.

Think of me sometimes, when  
 The daffodils spring by the rowan tree  
 And the gorse blooms bright on the  
 hillside lea.

Think of me sometimes, when  
 The sky lights up with golden haze  
 And the sun cloaks all on Summer days.

Think of me sometimes, when  
 The mist lifts slow to float upon  
 Gold bracken glittering in frosty dawn.

Think of me sometimes  
 when I'm gone.

## Community and Fellowship Committee

Whilst the church was in vacancy in 2011, Interim Moderator Fyffe Blair wanted to appoint a community and fellowship coordinator to oversee community groups related to the church. The friendship lunches, Food bank, Woman's Guild, Men's Group and Crafty Church are all individually and successfully led. The new coordinator role would be to represent them all at session meetings; reporting on their behalf.

Margaret has always felt naturally driven to be involved with the people in her community, a trait she inherits from her father. She says, 'It's in my blood!' and so Margaret welcomed the challenge when approached. "I believe you should strive to be a part of your community and take pride in where you live to benefit everyone." Consequently, on her arrival to Aberdeenshire, in 1969 from Lanarkshire, where she had been heavily involved in her mother church, she had helped in Sunday school since she was 14 years old. Margaret immediately sought out "the heart of her community"- the church; joining the young woman's group and later helping in the Sunday school.



Margaret Paterson was quick to participate in a variety of Banchory community initiatives, setting up the Banchory Tadpoles Swimming club, development of the Scolty Centre, involvement in the local music club, helping with riding for the disabled, meals on wheels and the food bank to name a few of her projects. Margaret jokes, "if I had a fiver for every rota I've written, I'd be a very rich lady!"

Margaret cherishes her place in the Church. "My faith has never left me." This dedication led to her earning a long service award from the Church of Scotland in 1993. In 1995 she became an elder of Banchory Ternan East church. A role she strives to fulfil to the best of her ability.

Banchory & District Initiative (BDI), a local charitable group of volunteers who wanted to improve Banchory and the surrounding areas was formed in 2003. The BDI have a great record of successful projects working with Aberdeenshire Council to facilitate community meetings and support community action groups. Through Margaret's involvement in the council initiative 'Planning for Real', she got involved with the board of the (BDI). Any resident or person who worked in Banchory could be a member. Margaret sat on the board to represent the church community.

Margaret worked with the BDI on the Bonny Banchory project: planting hanging baskets, planters, litter collection. "Our town is beautiful, but it is our responsibility, together, to keep it that way." She also worked on the Walking to health and the swimming pool projects.

Margaret's passion is inspiring, and although at times frustrating she says that being involved with people in her community has brought her great joy, she has enjoyed every minute of service and has made fantastic lifelong friendships along the way. Now after great commitment, 8 years on, she is handing the role of coordinator and position in the BDI on to Grant Lawrence. When asked what advice she would offer her successor, she suggested "Find your own path, but know I will always be here to help and advise you. Just ask!"

We all wish Grant the best of luck in his new position. If you have an idea to improve your community, contact a member of the BDI board or email at [info@banchory.org](mailto:info@banchory.org)

A list of church community and fellowship group contacts can be found on our website, [www.banchoryeastchurch.com](http://www.banchoryeastchurch.com) or by phoning the church office.

## East Church Women's Guild

In 1886, the Rev Dr Archibald Charteris was concerned that the ladies of the church did a lot of work in their churches and wanted recognition for their work. After discussion during General Assembly in May 1897 agreement to form the Guild was granted. Dr Charteris (134 - 1908), who founded life and work in 1879, made frequent visits to Aberdeen. He married Catherine Anderson, (daughter of Lord Provost of Aberdeen) and spent 3 days of his honeymoon in Deeside.

The East Church Guild is the second oldest surviving Guild in Scotland, and actually predates the establishment of the Guild. It's first meeting, on 3rd November 1886, saw the Rev Dr Hutchison as president, as at that time women were not allowed to chair meetings. From this evening onwards the Guild has flourished, with many members receiving their long service awards. The most recent of these being Mary and Norah for 50 years service



It was not until 1937 that The Guild was allowed to have a female chair of Guild committees. The pace of change accelerated and by 1939, the Guild was allowed to manage their own finances as well as establish a Young Mother's Group in 1943. It was over 55 years before more major change took place. In 1997 the Guild changed its name to Church of Scotland Guild (affectionally known as The Guild) and membership was opened up to allow men to join. In 2011 Banchory East celebrated 125 years of the Guild



Our joint conveners this year are Ray Thomson and Pat Thain. The current committee members are Lex Margo, Maureen, Margaret and of course Pat and Ray. Pat and Ray have been joint conveners for four years and have enjoyed it thoroughly.

At present our Guild runs every fortnight over the months of September through to March. This term there were 12 meetings. Starting with a welcome meeting and ending with the Annual General Meeting. They also organise and participate in the yearly Guild Sunday Service, a service dedicated to the Guild. This year the sermon was preached by a Guild member with many members involved in the service. This included a very funny sketch with Margo, Helen and Ray.

We interviewed Ray on her time with the Guild and discovered a lifetime of membership to the Young Woman's Group and the Guild. Ray first joined the Guild when she was eligible in her home parish in Glasgow. In 2007 she moved to Banchory where she joined both the East and West Church Guilds. She attended them both until a few years later she found she enjoyed the East church Guild the most so remained a member here.

Ray was first welcomed to the East Guild by the convener at the time, Margaret Thom. Margaret found Ray a seat and introduced her to some members. Ray has been a member ever since. Since joining she has



been a committee member, spent some time as treasurer and is the current joint convener. She has also spent some time on the presbyterial council. When asked why she has remained in the Guild so long, Ray tells us she loved to be with the people. She meets new friends from here and other Guilds. She enjoys finding and listening to the speakers. The most recent favourite speaker was Dr Pam Cairns from the 'Free to Live Trust'. The evening was an open night with other Guilds invited along. Before the evening Ray had received only

two replies to her invite, but to her surprise when she opened the door's she was delighted to see so many people from a wide range of Guilds had turned up. The evening was a tremendous success, with more tables and chairs laid out to accommodate everyone. At the end of the evening, one member approached Ray and said she had a wonderful evening. Ray comments that its very nice to know their work is appreciated.

Ray is enormously thankful to all who make the guild work especially her co-convenor, Pat Thain who steps down at the end of this session, has offered her continued support and advice throughout future sessions. The same level of thanks also goes to her committee members both present and past who have built our Guild to the popular organisation it is today.



When asked about the traditional view of the Guild, as all about tea and cake. Ray's response was, "yes we enjoy the time of fellowship, the getting to know each other more deeply and the finding out how we and our friends are getting on". She pauses before adding, "we have a tea convener Margaret Reid, but we're the kind of group where everyone pitches in when needed to help and that extends to providing Tea and biscuits".

One final comment from Ray? "We have a good guild going. I want to keep it going and I would really like to encourage more younger people to come and join us". But maybe the last word should go to Betty Gilbert who told Ray simply 'I just love this Guild, you are so friendly'.

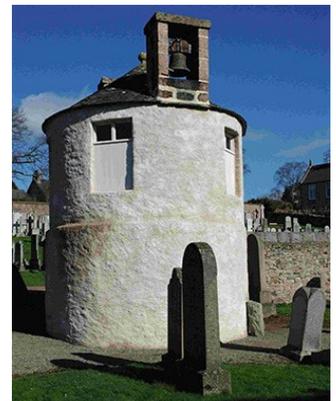
## East Church Men's Group

The Men's Group was created with the intention of providing Christian fellowship amongst men from churches in the Banchory area. The group has been established since 1970. Early features of the Men's Group were organised coach trips to local areas, which included, Aberdeen Harbour and various paper mills. The current president is George Montgomery. Pervious presidents have included Alastair Forbes, Bill Malcolm, John Rennie, Alex Robb, Albert Davidson, Burnett Merchant, Jim Allen, Bill Coutts and Stan Thomson.

The current president, George, gives us an insight into the Men's Group as it is today. We meet on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the months of October through to March inclusive. We have various speakers at most of our meetings. Subjects vary and of late have had a strong emphasis on local heritage. We were very pleased to recently have welcomed our rookie, Destinee Nelons chatting about her own faith journey

Our funds are raised through a £10 annual subscription, alongside an annual coffee morning, which this year was held on Saturday 9th March. There is also a charge of £1 for refreshments served at the meetings. This funding allows us to give donations to various charities such as Inspire and Erskine, and also support various projects.

Previous projects supported include the carpeting of the church and chancel and the supply of pew bibles. One of our larger projects was the refurbishment of the Watchtower in Banchory, which took place in 1998 when Bill Malcolm was president. The event was marked with a special Restoration Dedication Service, held in the church, on May 10th 1998. To which all members were invited. The members are proud to have been able to support so many projects.



Unfortunately our member numbers have fallen of late. So we would like very much to encourage new faces to come along to visit our meetings and hopefully join us. You are sure to be welcomed warmly.

For further information about the group please contact the President, George Montgomery, Banchory East Church (01330 825625).

## Friendship Lunches

In 1997/98 we started serving bacon rolls once a month following Sunday morning Service, these were enjoyed by many. However, several people, including our former minister Bill Nicholson, stated they preferred to go home for Sunday Lunch. Bill then asked why did we not do a lunch during the week. Then we were Norma Menzies and myself, who both at the time, volunteered with WVS Meals on Wheels Service. The seed was planted so we agreed to try serving lunch during the week. At this point I am rather hazy as to whether it was once or twice a month on Thursdays.

Initially some of the food was bought from the Burnett Hotel however following a Food Hygiene Awareness Course at MacPhies in Glenbervie and the Environmental Health Department, March 2000, also attended by Mary Paris, we produced most of the food. Soup and sweet one week and a main course and desert a fortnight later.



The lunches grew in popularity and our team grew, Frances Clark one of the first to join. Although initially aimed at the more mature, we found that families were attending, sometimes four generations from one family. The friendship and enjoyment were appreciated and the numbers attending grew. Nina Smith and Elma Ogg joined the group and our variety of meals became more varied and adventurous thanks to their catering experience. With this experience we were able to extend our lunches in 2013 into the summer months due to the demand.

We attracted people travelling through the village, seeing our sign would stop, some getting off the bus to enjoy the east Church Lunches. The church being at the heart of the community, last year we held a Wellness Lunch during Mental Health Awareness Week having received a recent directive from 121 Edinburgh for church to be more aware and accepting Mental health.

This event was very successful, backed and funded by NHS Grampian Health and supported by Social Work Groups and charities, a successful initiative which also showcased the church's hall facilities. It was a great success enjoyed by all.

We are members of Aberdeenshire Voluntary Action Group and engage with several community Support Groups. Our kitchen is passed by

Aberdeenshire Environmental Health and regularly checked. Our team all attend Food Hygiene Courses. We are also part of Tesco FoodShare.

The group annually provide the Harvest Lunch. This was previously a dinner held on Saturday evening before Harvest Thanksgiving. This changed to lunch due to demand. Funds from the lunch go to our Kandy Support Fund. Over the years the group have helped serve meals for church groups. A memorable one being a Mother's Day Lunch which attracted many family groups.

We are fortunate to have a good team of volunteers who provide and serve the meals. We also have several drivers who provide transport. We would not function and serve the community without their loyal and faithful help.

Twenty years on, what next. Hopefully we will continue to run this worthwhile service sharing the love, support and friendship that, as Christians are reaching out to those who will experience sharing the true Spirit of Christianity.

*Margaret Paterson*

The friendship Lunch dates for this quarter can be found in the centre pages of this magazine in the diary dates section.



## Aberdeenshire South Foodbank

The foodbank, located at the back of the West Church, is there to help people through a short-term crisis by giving out 3 days worth of emergency supplies. It depends entirely on donations of food and cash from individuals, groups, companies and organisations, including churches and schools. Everyone who has ever donated a tin of tuna, or carton of UHT milk, at the end of their weekly shop has performed a simple, but crucial, act of kindness that ensures a foodbank can provide to people who need it the most.

### Volunteer Insights

We are looking to set up a foodbank and volunteers are requested to help' was the request heard in Church one Sunday morning way back in 2013. Maybe not these exact words but I still clearly recollect the message and it's implication that individuals and families within our community were struggling to put food on the table.

Having arrived in Banchory the year before, I had not committed to giving time to any specific community project but it was quite clear to me that my presence at church that day was part of His plan in directing me towards this way of helping others. The decision was not difficult. And so, along with several others from our congregation, I became a volunteer with the Aberdeenshire South Foodbank.



Volunteers form part of a welcoming team in the foodbank reception or in the store room. Others are involved with the administration. My own role is varied and covers positions such as the lead volunteer on a rota basis, volunteer coordinator, joint store manager (stock management), safeguarding and as a member of the operations management committee.

It is my wish that Foodbanks were not needed but until that time I still remember the words spoken way back in 2013.

*George Montgomery*

I have been involved in the work of Aberdeenshire South Foodbank since it was first thought of in early 2013. A group was set up with people from all the Churches in Banchory and also one from a Church in Aboyne. I was asked if I would be willing to help by another member of Banchory East Church who had been approached. At the first meeting it was decided a Foodbank was needed not just for the Banchory area but for the surrounding area. We became affiliated to the Trussell Trust organisation which had been running foodbanks for a number of years and was named Aberdeenshire South Foodbank covering the area from Braemar, Ballater, Westhill to Portlethen and down to Gourdon. It is a large geographical area. After securing the use of the "Old Fire Station" from Banchory West Church, we started the process of setting up. Different roles were agreed, I took on the admin side, producing the paperwork required. An appeal was issued for food and soon we had sufficient and opened in June 2013.

Donations can be handed in to the Foodbank in Banchory or the permanent collection points Tesco, Morrisons and Co-op

My main role is behind the scenes dealing with issuing the Red Vouchers to the distributors, making sure the different forms that are required in the foodstore are replenished when necessary, check the email box regularly and inputting all the data from the redeemed Red Vouchers into a Data Base, this enables figures to be produced on how many adults/children have been fed in any given period, how much food has been weighed in and how much has been distributed. Only numbers are used, no names are mentioned. The Trussell Trust also uses this information when they issue press releases on Food Poverty.

We do not decide who is to get food, in order for anyone to get food they must produce a Red Voucher issued by a Front-Line Agency or authorised distributor, so one of my tasks was to try and get the different agencies, Social Work Departments, Citizen Advice Bureau, Dr's, Homestart etc to sign up to hold Red Vouchers. We now have over 40 agencies signed up, some use the Foodbank a lot, some occasionally.

I have never thought about what I get out of it. I do know that some of those who have been helped over the years are very grateful so they are getting a lot out of it.

*Helen Carberry*

## Diary Dates

### March

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> - Pastoral Care Tea & Music 2-3.30pm, Main Hall

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> - Men's Group Coffee Morning, 10am – 12 noon, Main Hall

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> - Pancake Praise Service, 10.30am, Church

*Followed by pancake tea coffee in the main hall*

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Lunch, 12noon – 1pm, Main Hall

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March Crafty Church, 1-3pm, Main Hall

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> - Messy Church, 3.30 – 5.30pm Church Halls

### April

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> - "DREAMERS" sung by J Murray & I Bradley, East church 3pm

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> - Friendship Lunch, 12noon – 1pm Main Hall

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - Crafty Church, 1-3pm Main Hall

Maundy Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> - Joint communion at West church - 7:30pm

Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> - Walk with the cross. Gather outside East church 7:30am

Good Friday 19<sup>th</sup> evening service East Church 7:30pm

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Easter morning service at Platties 9:00am

*Followed by hot cross buns and tea/coffee in the East church halls*

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> Easter day service 10:30am followed by short communion

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> - World Mission & Kandy Afternoon Tea, 2-3.30pm

### May

Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> - Crafty Church 1-3pm Main Hall

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> - Friendship Lunch, 12-1pm Main Hall



The advertisement features three jewelry brands: Shein Fleet (Granat Designed Jewellery) with blue and silver pieces; Nomination Italy with a colorful heart-patterned bracelet; and Cœur de Lion (Handmade in Germany) with a colorful beaded necklace. The Juniper logo, established in 1971, is prominently displayed at the bottom right.

www.juniperaberdeen.co.uk      Tel: 01224 640 480      35 Belmont Street - Aberdeen - AB10 1JS

## **Useful Contacts**

### **Minister — Rev. Alan Murray**

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

### **Church Office**

01330 820380, [banchoryeastchurchoffice@btconnect.com](mailto:banchoryeastchurchoffice@btconnect.com)

### **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)

### **Rookie — Destinee Nelons**

[nelonsd@spu.edu](mailto:nelonsd@spu.edu)

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

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

### **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

### **Magazine Team**

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

**Scottish Charities No. SC011251**

## Church in Community Care Homes

On Sundays, we sometimes sing “The church is not a building, the church is not a steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people”. We are very comfortable these days with the idea of the church being the people and maybe the first picture of the church gathered as people is on a Sunday at worship, but that is not the complete story when it comes to the East church. Church happens out in the community too and not just when we meet for coffee and a chat at the garden centre. Although that is an important part of being church during the week out in the community. The East church gathers in the community regularly in all sorts of places. Our work with the schools comes readily to mind as part of the chaplaincy teams, but we meet too in various care homes around Banchory.

**Bellfield** is run by Crossreach ([www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)) which is part of the social care council of the Church of Scotland. Today it is one of the largest care providers in Scotland, with experience across a broad range of services and the East church is very involved with the home. We organise a short service every Wednesday afternoon in Bellfield. While Alan leads worship every fortnight, each year, Lillian organises a rota of people drawn from the East church, St Ternan’s, the West church and Durris-Drumoak to take turns in the intervening weeks.



Helped out by Douglas, his lovely singing voice and his deep knowledge of favourite hymn tunes, these 20 minutes of reflection, prayer and singing are a joy for all. Over the last year, taking a Bible story as a starting point, we have wandered through such topics as breakfast at the manse (we have porridge every day except Saturday), how God expects us to load the dishwasher (in multiple different ways), the problems of car ownership and favourite television programmes both past and present. Over the last year we have had to embrace change too. We now use a set of CD’s to provide the music for our singing. There are 10 CD’s and songs are mainly in alphabetical order. Douglas has got very adept at choosing hymns that illustrate our theme, are well known by us all and whose first lines all begin with the same letter. It saves a lot of bother with changing CD’s if we organise things that way. But the East Church out and about at Bellfield doesn’t stop there. In addition to organising services, we play an important part in the Friends of Bellfield who over the years have helped raise funds through coffee mornings and “the strawberry tea” which alongside other donations to the friend’s funds provide many necessary bits of equipment to improve and ease the life of the residents. The friends often accompany residents on various outings through the year and are on hand to give Santa a helping hand at Christmas.

**Dalvenie Gardens** is managed jointly by Aberdeenshire council and Castlehill Housing association. Every month a small group are made very welcome by the staff as we gather for worship upstairs at Dalvenie. The format is the same as at Bellfield with the addition of a cup of tea after worship. Douglas again operates the CD player and keeps us on tune and in time as we sing our favourite hymns. Over the years we have kept up to date with what was happening through a very faithful member who joins the residents for lunch each Monday, providing a great link to the East church. We provide transport on a Sunday to the East church from both Dalvenie and Bellfield.

**Inchmarlo** While not in the East church parish, we hold quarterly services for members of the East church who live on the Inchmarlo estate or in the Inchmarlo care home.

## Fundraising Planning Group

The Fundraising Planning Group are a team of church members who concentrate on planning a range of fundraising events over the year. The group lead the planning of events and help individuals to organise the events. The group was initially established to tackle the shortfall in annual running costs.



The group has successfully arranged many events including movie nights, coffee mornings and the most recent Alternative Christmas Tree Festival all held in our Church. The event had 21 completely unique entries showing the wide array of talents in our community and congregation. The entries were displayed on the 8<sup>th</sup> of December, with the winner chosen by a vote on the day. Lesley Littlejohn's beaded tree was the overall winner, however it was very close among the top four entries. The event raised over £200 for church funds.

For more details of future events or if you have any suggestions please contact Mike Jamieson.

## Social Committee

This small committee is part of the larger Fellowship and Community one, to whom it reports. The aims and objectives are to foster Christian Fellowship by various means perhaps by meetings of various kinds where congregational participation is welcomed and anticipated and hopefully appreciated.

This is certainly so with the regular Crafty Church which was established a couple of years ago to mimic the Children's Messy Church and provide interactive play for some kind for the older generation, a bit of Worship and discussion and furthering of fellowship over a cuppa with some goodies too! And, now and again we have a sing song refreshing our vocal chords over some well-known hymns and songs and returning home all the better for that.

The play varies from month to month and can be an actual craft, eg making Christmas decorations and dinosaur's eggs and collages, an appreciation of Music, lessons and understanding of Doric, and games of various kinds. None of these events are too taxing, so don't let yourself be put off: attendees are always amazed at how well they have done despite an avowed "I could never do that " before doing exactly that!



Crafty Church is a fresh expression of church organised by the Social Committee (a very small committee I may add). Crafty Church meetings take place in the Church Hall on the third Thursday of the month from 1pm till 3pm. If you have never come along, please do give it a try, maybe just as a taster otherwise you won't know what you are missing.

This committee is also involved in some of the fundraising events and has organised and run several Quizzes and things like Beetle Drives and whilst such events are billed as fund raising, a lot of the emphasis is put on providing enjoyment and fun through participation and interest. We also get asked to help at Concerts by arranging refreshments and at the children's picnic by organising fun and games. At such events one gets back what one puts in, many times over, and the pleasure derived from organising, helping and running events is rewarding.

The committee is small, so there are not too many people to argue with but all suggestions for Social activities are warmly welcomed for consideration and activation! The congregation has been great at offering assistance when required.

Charles Robertson

# Holy Week

## The Passion of Christ

Pictures, words and activities for families to reflect on and do together during Holy Week.

Look at each picture together and read the meditation.

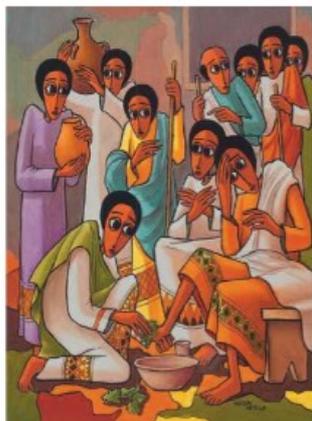
Have a time of silence, then talk about the question.

Finish by doing the prayer activity together. You could look at one picture each day in Holy Week, or choose one or two to use as a focus on Good Friday.

Artist Nebiyu Assefa's paintings feature in Joanna Brown's book *Jesus* (jozartpress.com). These resources were written by Pauline Godfrey.

### 1 Foot washing

based on John 13.1-15



#### A meditation

Look at the picture.

Jesus washes his disciples' dusty feet. He wants to show them that no one is more important than anyone else. 'Do as I have done', he says.

#### Talk together

- Who is God challenging you to serve today?

#### Prayer activity

Take a piece of string and quietly think of three people whom you could treat more kindly. Tie three knots in your string, one for each person, and take it away as a reminder to care for them.

### 2 The Last Supper

based on Luke 22.14-20



#### A meditation

Look at the picture.

Jesus has supper with his friends for the last time.

He takes bread and a cup of wine and holds them up.

'This is my body – given for you. This cup is my blood – poured out for you.'

#### Talk together

- Why do we remember Jesus with bread and wine?

#### Prayer activity

Break off and eat a piece of bread and drink a small cup of grape juice. Remember Jesus, as you eat and drink them.

### 3 The Garden of Gethsemane

based on Luke 22.39-46



#### A meditation

Look at the picture.

Jesus asks his disciples to stay awake while he goes to pray in the garden.

Jesus is upset. He feels alone. He knows he will die.

In the darkness, Jesus prays to his Father to save him, saying, 'but please, not what I want, but what you want be done.'

Jesus comes back to find the disciples sleeping. He challenges them to 'Get up and pray.'

#### Talk together

- What might Jesus want us to pray for?

#### Prayer activity

Listen to the song 'Keep watch with me' by Margaret Rizza, or the Taizé chant, 'Stay here and keep watch with me'.

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## What is Lent?

Lent is a season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten*, which means "spring." The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" and the reverent spirit of Lent is tempered with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

While you may be aware of this season leading up to Easter, you may wonder how you might "observe a holy Lent." There is no one prescribed way. Instead, we are each encouraged to find our own method of giving thanks for the gift of salvation we receive through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Often people have chosen to fulfil this part of being Christian by fasting, reading the bible and praying or finding extra ways to help others or by just spending time in quiet rest and contemplation

Fasting or giving something up for Lent is still one of the more common ways of observing lent. Some abstain from chocolate, social media, shopping, or something else through the season. We fast to reorient ourselves away from the distraction of those things, and back toward God.

Another way to reorient your life toward God, is to focus on Bible study and prayer during the season. You could start by using the daily bible readings on the weekly order of service. Which is available to download from [www.banchoryeastchurch.com](http://www.banchoryeastchurch.com). In the busyness of our everyday lives, prayer can sometimes get squeezed out. Lent is a wonderful time to work toward intentionally finding more time in your life for

#### 4 Peter denies Jesus

based on Luke 22.54-62



##### A meditation

Look at the picture.

What do you see? Which person is Peter?

Where is Jesus?

Peter decides to follow Jesus and those who

have arrested him into the high priest's house.

How is he feeling?

Peter is recognised – he's a disciple.

Why does he lie?

The cock crows.

How does he feel now?

##### Talk together

- What do you need forgiveness for?

##### Prayer activity

Take a small piece of play dough. Roll it into a ball and lay it on your hand. God has created us and we are perfect. Now put your thumb into it. Look at the messed up ball. We make mistakes and spoil what God has created. We need to say sorry. Think of things you need forgiveness for. Now make the ball into a heart, as a symbol of God's forgiveness and the love he pours into us.

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#### 5 Jesus carries his cross

based on Luke 23.26-27



##### A meditation

Look at the picture.

Imagine that you are one of the people in the crowd.

You watch as Jesus carries his cross.

Then Simon is forced to carry it for him.

Jesus is hurt from the whippings he's had.

The cross is heavy.

This is your Lord they are taking away.

This is the one you thought would

save the world

He is going to die.

##### Talk together

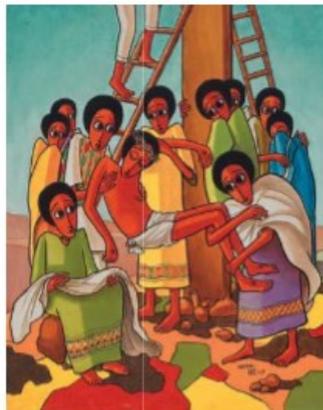
- Who might feel hopeless today?

##### Prayer activity

Light a tealight and place it on a wooden cross. Think about Jesus knowing he was going to die.

#### 6 Jesus is dead

based on Luke 23.44-56



##### A meditation

Look at the picture.

See Joseph of Arimathea ready to wrap Jesus' body in a linen cloth.

See Mary and John in the background, crying.

See the wounds on Jesus' feet and hands

and side.

'Father, into your hands I commend my spirit,'

Jesus had said.

He has cried his last. He has died.

Darkness has come on all the land.

Darkness in our hearts and in our minds.

Jesus is dead.

We do not understand.

A linen cloth will wrap his body.

##### Talk together

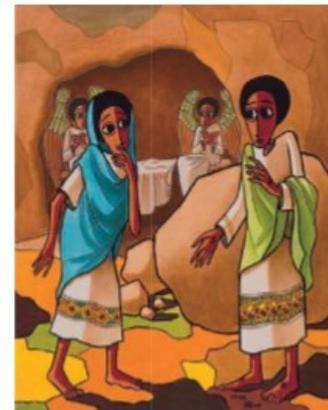
- How can we be like Jesus in the world?

##### Prayer activity

Make a pipe cleaner figure and wrap it in a strip of material.

#### 7 The empty tomb

based on John 20.11-18



##### A meditation

Look at the picture.

Mary is outside the tomb crying.

She sees two angels.

'Why are you weeping?' they say.

'They have taken my Lord.'

Mary sees the gardener.

'Why are you weeping?' he asks.

'Tell me where he is' she says.

Jesus calls her by her name: 'Mary.'

Mary recognises that it is Jesus,

'Teacher!'

Mary runs to tell the others,

'I have seen the Lord!'

##### Talk together

- How can we share the good news of Jesus' resurrection with others?

##### Prayer activity

Respond to God's call by making a flag with a sticky label and a cocktail stick. Write your name on it and place your flag in a sand tray.

prayer. You can experiment with different ways to pray during the season, or really delve into a new-to-you way of praying. Enriching your prayer life is a great way to spend Lent. Again there are starter prayers on the weekly order of service

You could also observe a holy Lent by taking on a new way of helping others. Throughout the forty days of the season you can adopt a new habit of volunteering in the community, making special financial gifts to service organizations or singing in the choir.

An important practice with which many of us struggle is simply taking enough time out of busy lives to rest. During Lent some people find extra moments on an ordinary day to be still in God's presence. You might choose to spend a few minutes during lunch with a meditation either from a book or from the web, listen to sermons on your commute, or read a poem that feeds your spirit. Which ever way you choose can be a great way of enriching Lent.

### The season of Easter.

Easter day this year is 21st April, but did you know Easter is not just one Sunday, it is a season. During the Easter season, which begins on Easter Day and ends 50 days later on Pentecost (this year 9th June). we focus on Christ's resurrection and ascension and the sending of the Holy Spirit (Pentecost). Many today believe that the Christmas celebrations are the happiest time in the church, but the Easter season is actually the most joyous and celebrative season of the Christian year. After all, we are celebrating the basics of our faith; the good news that in Christ's death and resurrection we, and all creation, are continually being made new by God's love and saving grace.

## Sweet Quiz

Example - Fallen Fruits ..... Pear Drops

1. Wobbly Infants \_\_\_\_\_
2. Wise Guys \_\_\_\_\_
3. Edible Fasteners \_\_\_\_\_
4. Alcoholic Dentures \_\_\_\_\_
5. Hole in One \_\_\_\_\_
6. 100% metal \_\_\_\_\_
7. Pleasure in the Middle East \_\_\_\_\_
8. Pirates Loot \_\_\_\_\_
9. Don't shout \_\_\_\_\_
10. All sorts of Girls \_\_\_\_\_
11. Feline Gear \_\_\_\_\_
12. Corks for mouths \_\_\_\_\_
13. A Galaxy \_\_\_\_\_
14. London has big Red Ones \_\_\_\_\_
15. 10 Pin Bowling \_\_\_\_\_
16. King of the jungles watering hole \_\_\_\_\_
17. Alfresco Dining \_\_\_\_\_
18. Definitely not chewy \_\_\_\_\_
19. Wanders from place to place \_\_\_\_\_
20. A Dating Agency \_\_\_\_\_
21. Valentine symbols \_\_\_\_\_
22. American Noughts and Crosses \_\_\_\_\_
23. A small piece of snow \_\_\_\_\_
24. Promote, Improve, Encourage \_\_\_\_\_
25. Royal Herb \_\_\_\_\_

## Children and Youth Work

Dear East Church,

As you may already know, on the 16th of December I preached as Sole Nominee at Birse and Feughside Church, and the congregation there voted for me to become their minister. I don't have a start date yet, but at some point in the next couple of months (confirmed as 28<sup>th</sup> March 2019-ed). I will finish my time as Associate Minister and Youth Coordinator with you, and be Inducted as Minister at Birse and Feughside on a half time basis.

I started as Youth Coordinator in December of 2011, and was Ordained as Associate Minister with special responsibilities for youth for the East and West Churches in January 2017. But long before that I was a young person involved in Rock and Edge when I was at school, and was a Rookie in 2001/2.

I came to faith as a result of the ministry that Rock and Edge offer to young people. And more than that, I was given the opportunity to serve, and to discover my gifts. I still vividly remember the first children's talk I ever gave, standing at the front of the East Church at the age of eighteen. I was totally terrified. But the encouragement I re-

ceived made me brave enough to try speaking in church again. And then again. And now here I am.

What I am trying to say is: thank you. Thank you for raising me. Thank you for sharing in worship and in ministry with me. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of sharing Jesus' love with the young people of Banchory for the last 7 years. Thank you for your friendship.

Please keep in touch!



What **Destinee Nelons**, our Rookie this year, enjoys about working with young people :

I love that in this ministry, something "new" is always just around the corner; Seasons change so quickly in their lives, with the challenges they are facing, the way schools are organised, and the actual development of "self" at this time of life. When I am made aware of the numerous pressures they face on a daily basis, I am reminded of God's steadiness and faithfulness through ALL seasons, no matter how much of life we have experienced. I have so much to learn from our young people about the Heart of God, and I am constantly humbled as God teaches me things through them!

Destinee xxx

### Youth Co-ordinator

My name is Greg Lister and I am a new Youth Coordinator. I am covering Chloe Spencer's maternity leave, so currently job sharing with Amy Pierce until she finishes. I am from Glasgow and recently moved up to Aberdeen. I love music, football and spending time with young people. I'm excited to be part of the ministry you are doing here in Banchory and I look forward to meeting you.

Greg



### Music Intern

Hi, I'm Stuart Dickinson, the new Music Intern with the Edge and Rock. I grew up in Banchory, and attended the Rock and Edge throughout my time at Banchory Academy. The group's had a big impact on me as I was growing up, providing friendship and a place where it felt safe to be myself. I really value that experience, and want to share it with other young people. I recently decided to take a year out of my university course to think through what I want to do with my future, and while I am taking that time out, I am volunteering with Edge and Rock, and helping with the planning of our groups and retreats.

Stuart

## Looking back over Christmas

Christmas at the East Church was packed full of friendship and laughter. What is Christmas? A celebration of course. So we had just that. Take a look at all that happened at the East over Christmas.

### It started with our Nativity Photoshoot.

This year we created our own Christmas Card starring our kids kirk children dressed as nativity characters. Everyone involved has fond memories of the afternoon. It was right at the beginning of the season and a simple photoshoot turned into an afternoon of fun and friendship. A bit of straw laid out on the hall floor, a nativity cast and lots of laughter.



### Then we lit our Church Christmas Tree



This year we were gifted a Christmas tree for the church in memory of two members, James Taylor and Isobel Gerrie. We joined together on the evening of December 1st, to sing some carols and light up the tree. The evening was a great fellowship event with everyone commenting on how much fun they had.

This was the place where our knitted Mary and Joseph started their journey. They journeyed round the village looking for a place to stay for the night, until they joined us again in the Church on Christmas Eve.

### Next came the Nativity Play

This year we went with a different style and a cast filled with adults and children alike. Away WITH the manger. The play filled the church with laughter and memories to hold on to. The congregation adored seeing the nativity played by the children with a fun filled twist. I wonder how many people realised they heard the nativity story three times in 20 minutes?



### Memorable moments from the cast

Although I had a very small part to play, I felt very privileged to be involved in the nativity play. There was a lot of laughter during rehearsals especially when Santa's trousers kept falling down!! Even on the day we had a lot of fun. The children were wonderful especially baby Jesus. I am sure everyone really enjoyed it and you could see a lot of happy smiling faces in the congregation.

A happy and funny way to convey the Christmas message.

*Ray - Caretakers wife*

Good fun all round and I very much liked Charles as the Inspector. Memorable moments - finding a real baby in the cot.

*George Montgomery - Bill*

Baby Ozzi in the crib nibbling on the hay, and Charles' moustache were both very memorable!

*Rachel Mair - Children's leader*

I enjoyed working with so many people during the rehearsals of the play. It was a great time of relationship building and everyone was so supportive of each other.

The rehearsals were so full of laughter.

*Norma Murray - Miss Smiley*

My accent when it should have been French coming out as German. Difficulties putting my moustache in place and keeping it there!

*Charles Robertson - Inspector Clueno*

The smiles and laughter from the congregation. The children were all brilliant, the best baby Jesus ever. Stealing the manger and trying not to laugh when we realised there was a real baby Jesus in it.

*Sarah - Bob*

## Mary and Joseph set off



As always over the advent period, our Mary and Joseph characters set off on their journey around the congregation and friends. As well as travelling round some houses looking for a place to stay, they visited the local primary schools and nurseries.



## Christingle Family Service

“My kids had a fantastic time making Christingles in the hall before the Christmas service and it was wonderful to see them all lit during the singing of hymns/carols. It was lovely, amongst the commercial hustle and bustle, to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus. That a king was born into humble surroundings, amongst the cattle and sheep in the stable. The wool bangles passed out to the children was a nice reminder of this, and my daughter continued to wear hers throughout Christmas Day. It was heart-warming to have friends and family gathered together rejoicing and celebrating.”

Lisa McCombie



“We visit Scotland each year, from France, to celebrate Christmas. It is an annual tradition for our family to attend the East Church Christingle Service. It is for all ages and our four children thoroughly enjoy it.

What a great idea to make the Christingle's together before this years service too. The service itself told the story of the night before Christmas. We really liked the way in which the minister and his team involve everyone in the congregation. It's a happy time and we look forward to celebrating in the East Church again next year.”

Karen Retailleau

“We came as a family and enjoyed making our Christingle before the service. We invited our friends, some of which were over from Australia for Christmas. It was lovely to see so many at the service. I thought the interactive 12 days of Christmas was brilliant, the kids thoroughly enjoyed it.” Gillian Abernethy.



“I thought the Christingle service on Christmas Eve was a very well constructed service. As usual and kids interaction levels were perfect for keeping them interested but at the same time included the important traditional values. We had a great time celebrating as a family.”

Donna Aitken

## Reflective Christmas Eve lessons and carols service

The Christingle service on Christmas eve was followed at 9:30pm by time spent reflecting on seasonal readings from Luke's gospel and favourite carols interspersed with a few poetry readings. Many of the congregation assembled on the chancel area took up the chance to light candles for those in need at Christmas time.

## Christmas day 10:30am Service.

Our Christmas day service was its usual happy time. The congregation, while small, was a marvellous mix of church members, friends from the community and regular Christmas holiday makers whose faces we recognise. A common comment made was 'The church just seems the right place to be on Christmas morning.' We sang happy birthday to Jesus, shared details of presents given and received, heard the start of John's gospel read and even this year sang a new-to-us Christmas song-- 'Frosty stars are twinkling bright to the tune Mhairi's wedding. The service always has a true feeling of celebration about it.

## East Church Archives - Part 4

In this fourth article I report on the period from 1810 to 1860. Two major events dominated our church life: in 1824/25 there was the erection of the present big church, and in 1843 the Disruption of the Church of Scotland. I have seen no evidence of celebration in 1815 for victory over Napoleon, but doubtless the return of soldiers from the war enabled our local lairds to speed up their agricultural improvements.

The architect of the new church was the famous John Smith, Aberdeen, and this choice shows the influence of the Burnett Leys family; their relatives at Auchenblae also employed Smith for their new village church erected at the same time. The designs of the two buildings are nearly identical, and the plan of our seating arrangements, both for the galleries and downstairs, fits the present seating in Auchenblae kirk. However, our interior was much changed in 1928/30, when the chancel was added and the side galleries were removed, and the only features now common to us and Auchenblae are the identical fluted cast-iron pillars.

For the building of the new church, the granite stones of the old church were reused. Dismantling started on 4 May 1824 and alternative arrangements were made for services until the new church opened on 17 July 1825. The congregation used the "Seceders' Chapel in Orbeadie", the minister preaching to half the parish in the morning and the other half in the afternoon. For 13 June 1824 it was recorded "No Sermon the decenters used their chapple", and this probably explained later Sundays with no sermon.

Our seating plan shows almost all the seats being given to the eight heritor lairds and their tenants. In descending order of the number of seats allocated, the estates and heritors were:

Leys	Sir Robert Burnett
Raemoir	Mr Innes
*Durriss	His Grace the Duke of Gordon
Tilquhillie	Mr Lumsden
Inchmarlo	Mr Davidson
Glassel	Mrs Young
Arbeadie	General Burnett
*Blackhall	Mr Farquharson

\* most of these estates were in other parishes, respectively Durriss and Strachan.

Leys Estate occupied the whole of the central block of pews downstairs, and the plan shows a wider space at the front of this block with two tables, presumably with good seating for the laird and his family. At least one person was very unhappy with the whole arrangement, since a letter is held in the Gordon archives written to the Duke by John Watson, who complained that he had been given "just three bottom rooms in the church" although he and his tenants "owned half the village".

The dominance of the lairds was short-lived, and a dispute in 1842 about burying a dead man was possibly intensified by some of those involved being antagonistic to the heritors' control. Our archives tell of an argument in 1841/42 between minister and session clerk about how the minister had replaced the church officer without the agreement of the session, and how until 1841 the church officer had been both beadle and gravedigger, but thereafter the minister had been hiring labourers to do the digging.

On the day in October 1842 when the minister refused to bury the dead man, and had the kirkyard gate padlocked, the former gravedigger was used. The deceased's relatives and

friends lifted the gate off its hinges, chose their own spot for the grave, and then rang the bell in the watch tower. The subsequent legal arguments were less concerned with the minister's lack of action and his support from the heritors, than with the "lawbreakers" trespassing on the watch tower – the heritors claimed this was their property even though it had been partly funded by public subscription. Significantly one heritor (Arbeadie) supported the "lawbreakers" and a few months later he was a leader in the founding of the Banchory Free Church, providing a plot on his estate for the new building immediately opposite to the Established Church manse across the turnpike.

After the Disruption our minister resigned, and the church struggled to find a new minister, about whose activities the least said, the better. He in turn resigned, or had to leave, in May 1846, whereupon our most notable minister, Rev. George Hutchison, was appointed. I will write more on his doings in article 5, and also on the church music and installation of the organ. Meantime just an intriguing snippet – our account book records £3 received on 16 April 1839 from Mr Duncan for "Proceeds of an Oratorio". Was this from a successful concert in church?

David Welch



### **Arbeadie Estate and its Boundary Stones**

Arbeadie was a small estate compared to the others in Banchory parish. It was once owned by the Douglas family of Tilquhillie Castle, but had been sold by 1800 to a younger son of the Burnett family, owners of Crathes Castle.

Arbeadie Estate was roughly rectangular, tilting to the north-west with the same orientation as Mount Street and Raemoir Road. Its east boundary ran along Raemoir Road but carried on straight north to include land now the Garden Centre. The north boundary went west from just north of the Garden Centre to Crow's Nest Tip entrance gate; here it turned south, passing Tillynarb farm and the limestone quarries once the Banchory Burgh tip. Thence it ran down to the High Street, to include the Douglas Arms at its south-west corner. The south boundary ran parallel to the High Street, but the actual boundary was about 50 m south of the road and likewise the west boundary was 50 m west of Mount Street, allowing properties to be built on Arbeadie Estate ground on both sides of these roads. Notably, buildings on the estate included both the first Free Church at the south-east corner, and its replacement, now Banchory West, at the foot of Mount Street.

Stones were placed on estate boundaries to prevent encroachment by unscrupulous neighbours. I know nearly 50 around Banchory parish, mostly slabs with a single letter incised to indicate the estate name. These slabs appear to have been mass produced in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, but originally estates simply marked large boulders on their boundary with the owners' initials on opposite sides. The three pictures are a slab near Tillynarb inscribed A; a boulder marked D (south face) near the Garden Centre; the same boulder marked B (north face). B and D signify Burnett and Douglas respectively - maybe the shift from surnames to estate names was a response to frequent changes in ownership.

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**Quiz answers** 1 . Jelly Babies, 2. Smarties, 3. Chocolate Buttons, 4. Wine Gums, 5. Polo, 6. All Gold, 7. Turkish Delight, 8. Bounty, 9. Wispa, 10. Dolly Mixtures, 11. Kit Kat, 12. Gobstopper, 13. Starburst, 14. Double Decker, 15. Skittles, 16. Lion Bar, 17. Picnic, 18. Crunchie, 19. Drifter, 20. Matchmakers, 21. Love Hearts, 22. Tic-Tacs, 23. Flake, 24. Boost, 25. Mint imperials.

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