



The Ronnecht

WINTER EDITION

2016



BANCHORY EAST CHURCH

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch.org

Scottish Charity No 011251

CCL 17629

Dear Friends

Advent is here, what we know more commonly as the start of the Christmas season. Advent is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, which means “coming.” We both celebrate Christ’s coming at Christmas, and we anxiously await Christ’s return.

The symbol within the season of Advent I’m most drawn to is the idea of a light shining in the darkness. Each Sunday of Advent, we will light a candle as a reminder that Christ has come and is coming again. The simplicity of a single candle shining forth often provides me with a quiet peace in what is typically a very busy season. With the coming of winter and darkness descending earlier and earlier each day, the anticipation of light draws me in to the beauty of what Advent is all about. There is no more welcoming feeling than when you find yourself stuck in darkness, and are suddenly given a revelation of light.

We have the opportunity, as those who participate in the Kingdom of God right now, to offer light to a world that desperately needs it. Whether it be through raising funds for mission organizations around the world, or offering a kind word to a neighbour as you pass on the street, the light of Christ shining through us can be a welcome flash in another person’s experience of darkness.

I’ve been serving in the East Church now for two months, and can say I have had a tremendous feeling of being welcomed in, of being provided with illumination to access all areas of the life of the church. It has been a joy to see and experience the numerous ways the congregation expresses its faith throughout each week. From hosting Tom Toms for mothers and children to craft circles to Messy church to the Men’s Group and The Guild, Banchory East Church is one active ministry after another. What great opportunities to be a light in the community!

As you reflect on the light and life of Christ during the month of December, take time to consider: Where is the light shining in the darkness for you? Where might you provide a feeling of welcome this Advent season? The light of Christ is coming, and we rejoice in anticipation!

Warmest blessings,
Janie Stuart

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

Friendship lunches for 2017.

January 12th & 26th

February 9th & 23rd

March 9th & 23rd

April 13th & 27th

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)

Men's Group Report

So far this year we have 16 members and began our season on 26th October with a talk from the President on his police career in London and continued with talks by Dick Jennings on the Azores Iain Montgomery on Fracking. We look forward also to our Christmas Meal to be held at Scott Skinnners on Tuesday 6th December where we enjoy some entertainment and Christmas carols. After that we will have a short recess and meet again in the New Year on Wednesday 11th January. Future evenings will include a quiz night, talks on local history plus a talk from our assistant minister, Janie Stuart.

New members are very welcome; anyone interested please contact George Montgomery.



Christian Aid Report (Banchory Churches Christian Aid Group)

The Christian Aid organisation has many partner agencies worldwide and these contacts are so important in ensuring quick and appropriate local responses to natural disasters if and when they occur. Sadly the recent devastating Hurricane Matthew that struck Haiti is one such incident. After the hurricane

struck and Haiti's frightened people emerged from their shelters, the damage to their homes and livelihoods became clear. Hundreds had lost their lives, thousands had lost their homes, crops had been flattened and livestock swept away. Your generous donations through the emergency envelope appeal plus the money added from the Raemoir Garden Centre collecting cans and fountain have so far raised almost £700. Through the local partner agencies, this money is going to provide shelter kits including roofing materials, clean drinking water and hygiene kits, seed for new crops and also to replenish cattle lost.

Christian Aid's Christmas Theme – Light the Way

It is hard to believe that 65 million people simply can't be at home. Forced out by the darkness of violence and fear, they're searching for safety and refuge. As we prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus, light of the world, remember and pray for the people of Haiti and those fleeing from violence and fear.

Our numbers on the committee are dwindling so if you feel you could spare some time to help, please contact George Montgomery (825625)

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

On 3rd September, several Guild members attended the Guild Gathering at Dundee. The speakers were the Moderator, Rev. Dr Russell Barr, and Sally Magnusson. This was a super day, which was attended by 2000 Guild members!!

Our new session began on 5th October, when our minister, Alan, gave us an amusing and informative insight into the other 'Spirit' in his life, when he worked at Grant's Distillery in Girvan. We then celebrated communion, which was very meaningful and personal to us all.

On the 19th October, Anne Macleod, a Guild member and the Resource Co-ordinator on the Presbyterial Council, gave a superb talk on our theme - 'Go in Joy.' We were able to share with each other, the joy, we have experienced in our own lives.

This is a special year for our Guild, as we celebrated our 130th Anniversary. On 2nd November, we were entertained by an excellent choir - 'Notes' a community choir from Torphins. Margaret Thom, a past convener, and who is also a member of the Presbyterial Council, and the National Council, then presented long service awards to four of our members, Agnes Barrack, (64 years), Mary Forbes (63 years), honorary member, Ella Nicholson (67 years), and Nina Smith (68 years). What a wonderful achievement - total of 262 years!!!

This was a very happy evening, and our thanks go to the guild committee, who worked hard to make the evening a success.

We have a very varied programme for the remainder of our session. We will hear about our project 'Let's Stick Together,' the charity 'Inspire,' an update on Nepal by Dr. Mike Steven, and 'Scotland's Still Light,' by photographer Andrew Hall. On a lighter note, we are looking forward to our Christmas Fun Night, and our Christmas meal, and in January ' A Wee Scottish Nicht.'

The syllabus is on display in the church hall, so please feel free to come along to any of our meetings, where you will be assured of a warm welcome.

The Guild held a successful Coffee Morning on November 19th and raised **£542.30p** for their chosen project 'Let's Stick Together'. The Guild would like to thank everyone who came along to support them in this worthy cause.

Ray Thomson and Pat Thain. Joint Conveners.



Bellfield Memorial Rose Garden

Imaginative Plans are in place to upgrade the garden. Some funding has already been received by BDI to get the work underway but it is hoped further funding will be received from Tesco to complete the ambitious plans for the area.

Bonnie Banchory in conjunction with Council Landscape Department will completely revamp the area using lots of different materials to create an interactive garden for all. A community sensory garden, vegetable growing area, a work area and possible band stand are some of the planned ideas.

The land previously owned by Crossreach and purchased by the Council in 1991-92 has undergone several changes over the last few decades.

The area presently being used for unofficial parking on the grass verge at the drive entrance will also be upgraded.

Have you ever noticed the memorial plaque in the garden, it is believe many people have never seen the plaque which is in memory of Dr S.F. Lindsay and Dr J.W. Park.

Choir News

There will be a Christmas Carol Service on **Sunday 18th December, 6pm** in the church. This is a joint choir and orchestra from the Banchory churches. Come along and sing your favourite carols. Refreshments will be served after the service.

WORLD MISSION

Update from Scots Kirk Kandy

In a recent communication from Rev. Saman Perera he asks us to continue to pray for their ministry especially in Pupurassa.

It would seem that the building is ready to be used but they are having difficulty in getting legal approval for registration as a place of worship and while it appears unoccupied they are being targeted by vandalism. They still continue the ministry by meeting in people's homes.

The Prison Ministry continues and the team are permitted to conduct monthly communion Services.

Prisoner's day was held on 10th September and they played a vital role in the day's activities. The congregation also helps in the education of 50 children of the inmates.

Saman states how appreciative they are of the financial support we send them regularly.

In our own congregation the Kandy Plus Group thank those who have helped us raise the required funds to meet our commitment to our partner church in Kandy over the past year. £1,500 has just been sent to them to be shared between the Pupurassa Mission, Prison Ministry and the Women's Development Centre.

We look forward to your continuing support in Prayer and fund raising activities in the year ahead.

Further information is available on their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/presbyterianchurchkandy/>

Or e-mail: scotskirksaman@sltnet.lk



Christmas Jokes

- **Q: Name the child's favourite Christmas king?**
A: A stocking.
- **Q: Why can't the Christmas tree stand up?**
A: It doesn't have legs.
- **Q: What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?**
A: Frostbite.
- **Q: How much did Santa pay for his sleigh?**
A: Nothing, it was on the house!
- **Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?**
A: Snowflakes

Christmas Wordsearch 1.

Can you find the words listed in these two puzzles? Words will either be across, down or diagonal.

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

BARBIE; BIKE;
 BOOKS;
 DOLL; FOOD;
 GLOVES; HAT;
 MATCHBOX; RADIO;
 SWEATER; TIE; WALLET;

Christmas Wordsearch 2

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

COOKIES; ELVES;
 FAT; GLASSES;
 JOLLY; MAGICAL;
 NORTHPOLE; RED SUIT;
 RUDOLPH; SACK;
 ST. NICK; WORKSHOP;

Pictures to colour



Advent is upon us.

As we approach the first Sunday of Advent. Every mother starts to have the feeling of dread. For me it means I purchase an expensive bottle of hand cream. In a week or so my hands will begin to feel the effects of preparation.

I admit to suffering slightly from OCD. I write lists every day. But at this time of year I write lists to remind me to look at specific lists. I can't rely on my memory when it's full to the brim and spilling over. List making is a curse and a blessing. I can and will survive the festivities. But as every mother knows, it doesn't happen overnight.

Parties, presents, food and drink. All part of a mothers planning. These things don't appear by magic on the day. All the chaos often leaves the true meaning of Christmas cast aside. If it wasn't for going to church though the advent services I can confess to probably thinking very little of it. Coming from a family who didn't go to church, I knew the Christmas Story, but I didn't think about it. As a child it was about family and exchanging gifts. Getting to see the people we only see on special occasions. It was magical.

I decided to ask my boys what was Christmas. The younger ones answers ranged from Santa and presents, the Elf on the Shelf, to the day Jesus was born. I suspect if you ask most small children it will be about being naughty or nice so that Santa can visit. The Elf keeping his eye out on behalf of Santa. The older boys said it's about Jesus' birth, the angel Gabriel and families. But they also mentioned the presents and the food.

So we sat down and talked about the famous Nativity Scene. How did it get there? What makes it special, why do we all know the story? These were the seeds I planted and let their imaginations run. Firstly, Lewis comments that it was, of course, Baby Jesus (very good). He is born on Christmas, the Angels brought him (well, sort of). His Mum, that's the one who looks like a nurse, had to push him out (ok, way TMI, lovely darling, well done). Scott tells us that they had to follow the star to get to the baby. That was God's way of showing everyone the way (I'm impressed). You do know they didn't have a phone or sat nav, they rode on Camels and stuff! It must have taken ages. At this point I struggle very hard not to laugh.

The older boys had a different view. They told of the tale of visiting the new king. How he was special and everyone knew it. But it had to be kept secret to protect Jesus. That we are lucky that he was born and that God sent down his own Son. Didn't you know Mum that he's actually Gods son, not Mary's, she just got him as a gift. She was very lucky too. She was chosen because she was still good. They too mentioned the importance of the Star and that it's the reason we have a star on the top of our Christmas Tree.

I was pleased to see they knew the story. That they were proud to know the story. They truly loved the story. The older boys actually said of course we know it, everyone knows it. I hope everyone does know it. It's quite possibly the most famous story in the bible. It's certainly one of the happiest stories. The gift from above, a symbol of hope.

That is what Christmas is about.

In our house we celebrate Christmas as a whirlwind. Its chaos from the second they awake to the last head laid on the pillow that night. Last year we attended the Christmas Eve service for the first time. It was lovely. A real family feel. It was brilliant to hear lots of voices. Old and young. Families smiling and laughing. The pews were full. With our church being a large church, it was a spectacular sight to see. Everyone turned out, candles in hand. The children can join us in song as we all sing the words they know and love. We all have favourite carols that we know the words to, but even the children know the Christmas Carols. Isn't it beautiful to see their little eyes light up as they sing with all their hearts. I know I love to see it. Sharing our love. Singing and praying together to our father.

That is the important part, **our** father. He is a father to us all. He loves all of us. We thank him for sending us **his** son. For bringing him here to show the world how to be a better place.

The Christmas story is one of the happiest stories you can hear. No matter how much or how little you know. From the camels to the Inn Keeper. And my personal favourite, the Angel. Angel Gabriel, with his news the whole story began.

So as I head towards the frenzied cleaning and planning. I will remember to join my church. I love that bit, **my** Church, I feel special and honoured to have a place there. I will join them as we thank God for his gifts. As we count down together to the final service of advent.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Sarah x

(Ps TMI –too much information.)

Crafty Church (A New Adventure)

At the November meeting of Crafty Church, Bertha Forbes had us pondering over the north east language and telling us about Haiku. What is a Haiku ? Well, a Haiku is a Japanese Poem, which consists of 3 lines and 17 syllables. Each lines has a set number of syllables

Line 1 5 syllables

Line 2 7 syllables

Line 3 5 syllables

Haiku poems do not need to rhyme, but for a challenge some poets try to rhyme lines 1& 3.

Sometimes there are hundreds of verses. This has a popular activity in Japan, since the 9th century

After our compositions, we had a sing song, with Charles playing the guitar. This was followed by a welcoming cup of tea.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 15th December, at 2pm. The theme of the afternoon will be 'Christmas'. Do come along and join in the fun

Here are some of the Haiku verses composed at the Crafty Church Club

*Walkin' doon the street
Speakin' tae a'boday ye meet
Getting' yer shoppin'.*

*Sunday morning kirk
Hearing the bells loud and clear
Welcome to us all*

*Ladies meet in hall
Prayers, singing, reading. Tea
Guild on Wednesday*

*Eat Thanksgiving meal
Turkey, Tatties, pumpkin pie
Joyful grateful day*

*Crafty church today
Bertha presented Doric
We worked ate play*

*Christmas time is here
Cloutie dumpling, brandy sauce
Presents under tree*

What is this Haiku describing?

*'Green and speckled legs
Hop on logs and lily pads
Splash in cool water'*

Answer:- _____



Baptisms

Romy Anne Paterson;

Benjamin Isaac Littlejohn;



Rosie & Allan MacKenzie;

Rebecca Littlejohn & Martin Curran



Parish Funerals

Mr Allan Fraser;

Mrs Jane Coutts;

Mrs Mary Abrahams;

Mrs Muriel Mitchell;

Mrs Rosebella Mackie;

Mr William Paterson;

Mrs Helen Morrison;

Mrs Elizabeth Mutch;

Certificate of Transference:

Lynne Tracey, Beech Tree Road – to Mid Deeside Church, Torphins

Members who have left

Linda Murray, Corsehill Cottage, Durris

John England and Nancy England, Burnett Hill

Graham Peter and Brenda Peter, Burn o' Bennie

New Members -



Miss Michelle Cole, Tarland, Aboyne,
Chioma Adebawale, Raemoir Avenue, Banchory,

Admission of Elder-

Mrs Lesley Littlejohn Forestside Road Banchory

INCOME COMPARISON - JANUARY TO SEPTEMBER

	2015	2016
Plate	£5,924	£4,965
FWO Envelopes	£13,465	£13,654
Standing Orders	£30,755	£28,056
Local Project Funding	0	£1,628
	£50,144	£48,353

Gift Aid – changes to declaration form

The wording on the Gift Aid declaration form has changed. You are not required to sign a new form but I wanted to draw your attention to the fact that if you not pay sufficient tax you are liable to pay the difference.

New Wording

‘I want to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years to Banchory Ternan East Church of Scotland. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference’.

Tax

I would also bring to your attention the fact that the first £1,000 interest on savings is now tax free, the change came in on 6th April 2016.

Any queries please get in touch with Helen Carberry, Gift Aid Convener.

Tel 01330 824409 or email carberry@talktalk.net

A VOYAGE TO CHRISTMAS

To be exact this is an adventure on the Pacific Ocean including a crossing from North to South Pacific in the region of the Equator. Christmas Island and its neighbour Fanning Island form part of the Line Islands, or Kiribati Group, situated in Mid Pacific. Christmas Island is part of Australian Territory with its population of 2,072 and Fanning Island, discovered by Edmund Fanning, sailing on the 'Betsy' on 11th June 1798, was in past history part of the British Gilbert Islands. Fanning has a population of 1,960 and on both islands the main occupation is the export of copra and handicrafts. The people are very poor, existing on a diet of reef fish, chickens, pork and seaweed. Fanning has no electricity or mains water supply. Tourists are a valuable source of revenue. My journey commenced in San Francisco with a toast, under the Golden Gate Bridge, to a Banchory friend and neighbour who spent many years in that city. Clocks were put back by 3 hours as our beautiful ship 'Silver Shadow' made the choppy crossing of five days firstly to Hawaii (the main island) and thence to Maui and Oahu of which Honolulu is the capital. Maui was beautiful and unspoiled with high mountains, tropical rain forest and coral reefs. Honolulu was equally tropical but with high rise buildings clustered around the famous Waikiki Beach and the extinct volcano Diamond Head. A morning was spent at Pearl Harbour where, on 11th December 1941, 2467 US naval personnel died and 1178 were injured following a daring air attack by the Japanese. This marked the entry of USA into World War II. It was a surprise to see huge numbers of Japanese tourists at the Pearl Harbour site and their incessant photography of each other may have caused some offence to those other visitors being somewhat more respectful of the memorial.

Two further day's sailing took our ship to the International Date Line where we retired to bed on Saturday night but woke up on Tuesday morning (a pity for those with a birthday on the Monday – simply lost for another year). This was the expected *calendar* change only since the ship, on Saturday night remained in the same Time Zone as Hawaii – 9 hours *behind* Banchory. On waking on Tuesday morning however and in view of Fanning Island, we found ourselves in a new Time Zone some 13 hours *ahead* of Banchory. Incidentally, the Kiribati Group of Islands is the first in the World to witness the New Year as the furthest geographical point east on the globe. If you considered that the International Date Line was a straight one you would be mistaken. It does in fact make a

large loop or bubble eastward in the Pacific Ocean to include the Kiribati Islands and other island groups.

There is no harbour at Fanning Island and no safe anchorage since the depth of the Pacific at that point is so deep that the 'Silver Shadow' had to continuously propel on automatic pilot to maintain its position and offload the passengers into small boats to go ashore. Groups of passengers strolled through tropical vegetation in blazing heat, nearly on the Equator at this point, and were welcomed by groups of children singing 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' in their patois dialect. There was little sign of any industry, no fish or vegetable market and only the children in a small school compound seemed to be active.

Seaweed, part of their staple diet was drying on the shoreline. This is extreme poverty.

An overnight sail took us to Christmas Island, the largest coral atoll in the World, where the settlement was a little more civilised and some electricity was evident. Between 1957 and 1962 this island was the site for high altitude hydrogen bomb tests by the British and the Americans. There were some brick buildings unlike Fanning which had an abundance of ramshackle huts with tin roofs. Both islands were untidy with garbage everywhere, rusty cans galore but smiling faces on the children. The Norwegian Cruise Line (NCL) had financed some of the school buildings and there was other evidence of their interest by way of their deck chairs. NCL call at Kiribati, several times per year bringing some welcome tourists and had clearly seen the need for financial support in particular to help the children. Some of our fellow passengers gave the children some toiletries as gifts from our ship and the same children tried to sell them back to us at a later point on our stroll!

The Pacific Ocean is so vast with few seabirds in sight until the ship is within 36 hours or so of land. No other shipping was observed and disappointingly no dolphins or whales either; simply blue ocean for as far as the eyes can see and flying fish galore skimming the waves. A restless, sparkling ocean encouraging relaxation and a gentle rocking bed each evening ensuring a sound and satisfying sleep.

The Equator is crossed on the day following our visit to Christmas Island and there are festivities around the swimming pool led by King Neptune in crown and full robes. Those that volunteered to be part of the ceremony were doused with spaghetti and tomato sauce from top to toe and threatened with cardboard scimitars!

It is now Thursday evening and we are sailing mid way between the Kiribatis and the Territory of French Polynesia. We go to bed and wake up next morning but it is still Thursday and we have gained a day. Great for those on board

celebrating a birthday – they now have two! We have just left the International Date Line Loop or bubble and have returned to the same Time Zone as Hawaii, some 9 hours *behind* Banchory again. Future travellers would be well advised to refrain from adjusting the dates on their watches since all turns out well at the end of the adventure with the IDL. Some chaos reigned however with yours truly and others unfamiliar with the World's 24 hour time zones!

Bora Bora, site of Bali Hai in the film 'South Pacific' is reached and we sail into a natural harbour. Its beauty is breath-taking – we visit Bloody Mary's Restaurant and watch sand crabs grab hibiscus flowers and drag them into their burrows (they have a special taste for them). Moorea is next with its high jagged mountain ranges and blue blue lagoons. Finally our voyage ends in Papeete, capital of French Polynesia.

BILL CUTHBERTSON

Messy Church fun day in Scolty Woods



Church Clock

The invoice below was discovered by Lesley Grant when 'clearing papers'; it records the work carried out in 1984 on the church clock of Banchory Ternan East by Allan & Davidson, owned by Bob Davidson, a member of our church.

The work was paid for by Lesley and her mother in memory of her father

G. L. Grant BEM, who was an elder at Banchory Ternan East for over 40 years.

Thank you Lesley for sharing that with us.




Head Office:
142 QUEENS ROAD, ABERDEEN AB1 8BR
Telephone 33706

Branches at:
57 HIGH STREET, BANCHORY Telephone 3397
24 GOLF ROAD, BALLATER Telephone 55223

Mr. W. Malcolm,
Session Clerk, Banchory Ternan East Church, Banchory.

26th July 1984

ACCOUNTS MONTHLY

Vat. Reg. No. 265 3895 22

CUL.20/V121/84		VAT		
	<u>CHURCH CLOCK</u>			
	Prepared and painted three coats			
	Numerals gilded			
	Time: 22 hours @ £6.00		£ 132	00
	6 " @ £4.50		27	00
	<u>Gold Leaf (net)</u>		46	80
	<u>Paint</u>		2	50
			£ 208	30
	Less 10% discount		20	30
			£ 188	00
	Hire of Scaffolding (net)		70	00
			£ 258	00
		15%	38	70
	TOTAL		£ 296	70



Interior Decorators & Painting Contractors Proprietor: Robert Davidson F.I.B.D.

Articles for the next edition of the magazine must be submitted to the editor by the 15th February 2016

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

7pm – 8pm Effective Pilates

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)

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

Our church calendar is now online at

www.banchoryeastchurch.com/calendar

Who's Who in the Church

Minister	Rev Dr Alan Murray Tel. 01330 822481 AJSMurray@churchofscotland.org.uk
Assistant Minister	Rev. Janie Stuart Janiestuart@banchoryeastchurch.com
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Rookie	
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