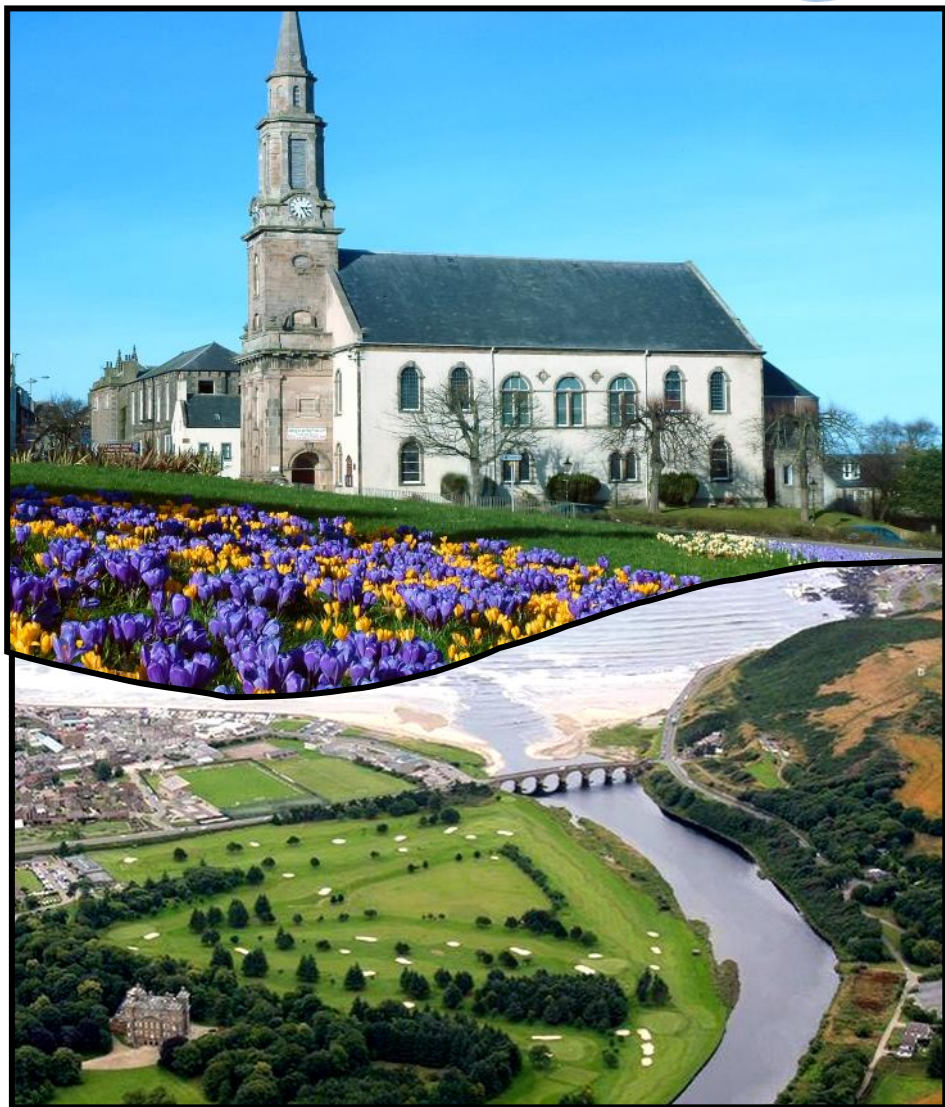


# The Bridge

February 2018



**Banff & King Edward Parish Churches**

## *Dear Friends in Banff and King Edward.*

I was on a week's study leave recently; ministers are encouraged to take two weeks study leave each year. Sadly I have only taken now a total three since I was ordained, but each time I think I have benefited, especially through sharing with others of similar and different views. That's part of what church is about and partly why staying to chat after church over tea or coffee can be so helpful. But often people do not actually share their deep thoughts about life and faith openly, so I would like in coming months to give people another chance to briefly share their own faith journeys or views in church as a sort of testimony. If anyone would like to do this, please let me know. you probably feel you are not good enough, but don't let that stop you. God can speak through you especially when we are willing to go deeper than our comfort zone



**Going deeper was the theme of the service** in church in mid-January, drawing on the passage in chapter 5 of Luke's gospel, which spoke to me in unexpected ways while I was on study leave. Jesus asked the disciples to get into their boats and go deeper, even although they were exhausted and go back fishing. Simon Peter was exasperated and

answered, 'Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets.' When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. Then Jesus said to Simon, 'Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people.'

We too may feel we've done all we can but Jesus effectively says follow me once again, **don't be afraid, you can go deeper and help raise up people in their lives, and even find yourself changed with new purpose**



In my studies, we were encouraged to attend an afternoon arts and crafts training session, which was way beyond my comfort zone. The art teacher explained all the different types of art we could do, and I panicked, wanting to run away. I remembered how at school I was useless at art. But partly because the teacher was very good, partly because I would have to



face my wife who is good at arts and crafts, and partly because of encouragement of doing it with others, I stayed. We were given a lump of clay and told to make a pot; I was again panicking until the teacher said, just stick your thumb in the middle; I did so and suddenly could see a pot begin to form.

Maybe it was easier than I feared!! So often

in life with the right sort of encouragement from others, and trusting in God, we can indeed go deeper, than we think our humble talents allow, and at least stick our thumbs in!

Now I know the pot I made is not pretty but for me it's meaningful. We were encouraged to think about the Bible passages we had been studying the call of the disciples, and Jeremiah the prophet who knew great troubles, and let God guide us in pottery. The pictures you see here are the result. A pot in my eyes with God's hand upholding it / me and my finger prints inside pressing in all the wrong places even resisting. But on one side the cross of Jesus shining out of the mess and inside some sand and seashells reminding of the seashore where He met with disciples and called them to go deeper; and a fish shape inside to symbolise Jesus calling us to be fishers of people, raising people up out of their depths. And echoing around my mind was the hymn, *Lord, You have come to the seashore... desiring only that I should follow. O Lord, with your eyes set upon me, gently smiling, you have spoken my name; all I longed for I have found by the water. At your side, I will seek other shores.* It was another reminder to be willing to go deeper with Jesus as guide.



That pot spoke to me and maybe opened me up a little to the different ways God can speak to us. He can speak to us through Bible passages and prayer, through sharing and yes through art. Be open to the different ways God might speak with you

In the chapel where our group worshipped, they still had a centrepiece from Christmas, consisting of many candles of light surrounding a makeshift stable with a large star of light on top of it. The star signified the star that led wise men to Jesus and how the light had come down into a dark world to shine out, as we each light our candles. Lighting candles is not part of some protestant churches history but it can be very meaningful for example at our recent memorial service for the bereaved when somehow lighting a candle in memory of our loved ones seems right and helpful.



In the chapel service, one minister tried to light a candle, but as he turned away, it went out; he swithered what to do, and turned back and lit another candle which burned brightly. It somehow made me think that is the Christian life; we try to be a source of light but sometimes we fail. And sometimes we have to try again slightly differently, and find the light shines out.

**Christmas has been and gone, but through the dark winter days, you can be light. Life can be hard especially in winter but we have assurance that God came from the heights to be with us, sometimes especially when life is hard,** for it was when Simon Peter felt exhausted that he came to open up more. Sometimes, it takes us till we are struggling to turn again and open up more to God and to others for help and support; and in our cries He hears us, and we know good can emerge out of it.

In the late 1840s Joseph Scriven, on the eve of his wedding day, learned that his bride-to-be had been tragically drowned. With a heart full of grief, he left his beloved Ireland and moved to Canada.

Once again he became engaged to be married, only to lose a second fiancée to a brief but fatal illness. Scriven spent the rest of his life helping the physically handicapped. His days were lonely, he was poor, and his own health was precarious. So he lived out his days teaching and ministering to others in Ontario. When he learned that his own mother back in Ireland was going through a distressing time, he wrote her a poem of consolation. They were the words that, in time, would ring around the world: **What a Friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear; What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer.** O what peace we often forfeit, o what needless pain we bear; All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.

Scriven knew hard times but found prayer helped and out of his hard times, we have a hymn we can sing to help us in our hard times, to remind us to pray and talk to Jesus as openly as Peter did. Chatting to someone recently relatively new to church, the person said that he had found a great comfort in prayer and unburdening his worries, even chatting with God.

Do join us when you can at our Prayer and Bible study group which meets twice a month at 7pm on Tuesdays.. or even pray alongside us at home at that time. I hope to introduce the 'app' I discovered on my study leave, 'pray as you go' which is a helpful daily 12 minutes of music, bible reading, reflections and prayer. If you can download apps onto your laptop or even better on your mobile phone, do try it; I have found it good for when you are out walking. It uses the Ignatian style of exploration, of chewing over bible passages so the same passage is helpfully read twice ; for when we explore a passage more than once, we can go deeper and sometimes find God speaks anew. For the non-technical, you can just talk to God directly in your own prayer time.. or use one of the prayer guides available through the church like Upper Room or New Daylight. Do ask for help to get one if you cannot manage.

Going deeper in life is not easy, but keep talking and listening to God and be open to the different ways He might call you, even through the mystery of art.

Yours faithfully, *David* fiancée

## **Christian Aid Lunches—Holy Week** (26th—30th March)

Once again the snowdrops, crocuses and daffodils are beginning to peep through the ground, preparing to brighten our landscape. We have started preparing for this year's Christian Aid Lunches, which take place during Holy Week. The dates for your diary are Monday 26th March till Friday 30th March. We look forward to sharing food and fellowship with everyone that week.



If you would like to donate either food or cash to help with the lunches then please put your name on the sheets which will be at the back of the Church at the end of February.



We will also have a sales table and if you feel able to donate home bakes or crafts it will be gratefully received. All money raised goes to Christian Aid.

Please encourage as many people as you can to come along to enjoy good food and fellowship with us during that week.

<b>BANFF PARISH CHURCH</b>	
<b>Hamper Raffle</b>	<b>SCOTTISH LUNCH</b>
	<b>Saturday 10th February</b>
	<b>12-1.30pm</b>
	<b>Banff Church Hall</b>
	<b>£5 per person      under 6 years £3</b>
	<b>Sales Table</b>

## **FOOD BANK**

There is a box at the back of Banff Parish church if you would like to donate items or you can take along your own donations to the Harvest Centre any Tuesday or Thursday morning (between 10-12am).

Food should be non-perishable and well within sell-by date.

If you would like to donate but can't come to church or get to the Harvest Centre please speak to your Elder or call the church office on 818211.



What is Messy Church?

Messy Church is a form of church which involves creativity, celebration and socialising! It is fun and for all ages. YOU ARE WELCOME!

The first Messy Church of 2018 will be held in Banff Church Hall on Friday, 16th February at 5pm.

If you have been before we look forward to welcoming you back. If you haven't been before, we would love to welcome you through our doors.

If you would like someone to meet you outside the hall door please give Karen , our Children and Family Worker a call or leave a message on 01261 818211.

Karen Cumming , Children and Family Worker: 07484 090 127

## **Banff Parish Church Stewardship Programme**

We are about to launch our stewardship programme and **We're so excited, and we just can't hide it!** (Apologies to the Pointer sisters).

Last autumn the Kirk Session asked a small planning group to plan this programme with support from Fiona Penny, a Church of Scotland Stewardship Consultant. The group is chaired by Jim Buchan and other members are Trevor Leuty, David Locke, Joyce Millar, Irene Mckay, Kate Samuel, Janet Simpson, Elinor Smith and Irene Tewnion.

You may already have seen the logo

It represents a great deal of thought, work and prayerful consideration.



We were keen to show our vision for a Church that expresses its faith through sharing, caring and giving. We can all do that individually, as members of groups and as a Church as a whole. We wanted to let everyone know the extent of our work and encourage everyone to be involved.

Over the next few weeks, we will be recruiting visitors to go out to each church member and adherent's home

with a personal invitation to a special event in our Church hall on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00pm or Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March at 2.00pm or Saturday 17 March at 10.00am. Transport can be provided when required. We do want to give as many people as possible an opportunity to attend and share in our excitement. You will be getting a "Save the Date" card delivered to your home address in the next three weeks but you can put the dates in your diary right now! Your visitor will be delivering your personal invitation during the last week of February.



Each event will last about 1 ½ hours and follow the same pattern – there will be displays of all the work and activities that our Church is involved in, followed by a presentation about the programme and finishing with refreshments. Everyone will be given a pack containing a brochure, a bookmark, a response form, a standing order form, a gift aid form and a reply envelope.

Before then, our Minister, David and our pastoral assistant, Vera will be preaching on the themes of the programme on four consecutive Sundays; on **28<sup>th</sup> January** David will consider sharing; on **4<sup>th</sup> February** Vera will look at pastoral care and caring; on **11<sup>th</sup> February** David will preach on giving and on **18<sup>th</sup> February** David will consider faith in our community. We hope you will be able to come along to each of these services.

Why are we doing this? We do want to share the excitement of all that is taking place in our Church and all that we do to reach out to the community. All of this requires us to use our time, our talents and our money – all are necessary and recently we have focussed on time and talents in particular. The focus here is on financial giving. We will be respectfully asking all our members and adherents to review their giving and to give in a regular, planned and tax efficient way. After all, we are the Body of Christ here on earth, doing His work and sharing His message – what a challenge! We hope that you will want to be counted in and play a part.

We will have more updates as time goes on but if you have any queries, please feel free to speak to any member of the planning group at any time. Some of you will be asked to be visitors, please consider this carefully – at no time will you be required to talk about financial giving, your task is to pass on a personal invitation and encourage as many people as possible to come to one of the special events.



**GO FOR IT**  
Funding Change in Church and Community

The Children and Family Worker project which was established in Banff Parish Church in 2016 is partly funded from our own resources and partly by the Go For It Fund which is based at 121 George Street. Several interested members of our congregation have asked for more information on Go For It.

Go For It is a Fund of the Church of Scotland and was established in May 2012. It's all about funding change in church and community. The Fund aims to encourage creative ways of

working, which develop the life and mission of the local church, and are transformative for both communities and congregations.



**CIRCUS CLUB—SUMMER 2017**

## **Who can apply?**

Any Church of Scotland congregation is welcome to apply. Any application must be focused on a project. For example, if you want to refurbish your church kitchen, that isn't something Go For It would fund. However if you're planning to develop a Community Cafe, and as part of that project you need to upgrade your church kitchen equipment, that is something we would consider funding.

Any application must be match-funded with at least 50% of a project's budget raised locally.

Any application should demonstrate a commitment to good partnership working. Go For It would want to know who you'll be actively working with in delivering the project, whether that be other denominations, the local school, Community Council, Health Centre, etc.

Finally, there are five criteria for funding, and successful applicants will evidence how they are meeting at least **two** of these, with statistical information and practical examples:

- Meeting identified needs in the community
- Nurturing Christian faith within and beyond the church
- Tackling poverty and/or social injustice
- Developing new ecclesial/ Christian communities

Creating work which is genuinely innovative and shares good practice with others

Further information on the project can be obtained from Charlie Smith, our elder who heads the Banff Project Management Group and who also is a member of the central Go For It Committee at 121.

# **MONTHLY LUNCH**

@

# **KIRK CAFE**



**Thursday, 1st February 12-1.30pm**

**Soup and Sandwiches £4 Under 5's free**

**Children's Play Corner with Karen**

**ALL WELCOME**

# Breaking news!!!!

As the Bridge goes to print, the Communications sub-group of the Kirk Session are in the final stages of preparing a brand new church website. Here's the 'need to know'...

## Why?

Increasingly, people in Banff and Macduff are linking with our church through social media. This is a great way of keeping people up-to-date with what is happening in the church, but needs supplemented with a website where people can get a more in-depth feel for what we as a church do and are about. Our existing website has served the purpose for which it was initially set up, but needed a refresh to more accurately reflect the ways the church is currently growing.



## How?

Following research into websites of different churches and other organisations locally and nationally, we've chosen a colour scheme that we think is bright and cheerful. We've kept most of the existing information but have added additional pages designed to give people a clearer idea of what to expect when they come to our church. We've made it easier to find information about the many church activities that are some people's first or only link with the church, and about the extensive list of local, national and international organisations we are connected to. We've tried to make the site more interactive by including a way of requesting pastoral support via the webpage, but we're ambitious to expand this aspect of the site more as other options become available. This is very much a work-in-progress so please let us know what you think so we can continue to develop the website in a way that meets the needs of our congregation and community.

## Is that it?

No. This is a website for the whole church community and as such it's important that it reflects the needs of that community; that means each of you! The website was formally launched during the morning service on Sunday 28th January and we've already had a chance to see how it links to our values and vision. If you missed it, please have a look at [www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk](http://www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk) or ask someone to help you.

It's important the website accurately reflects where we are as a church and that means we need you to tell us what you think we need to change or improve; all feedback will be welcomed. And if this is something you feel strongly about and would like to be involved in continuing to develop, please let someone know!

Contact: [info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk)

### *Point to Ponder*



***What you're asking God to change may be exactly what He's using to change you. His power is made perfect in our weakness. (See 2 Co.12:9)***

## **COME AND JOIN US AT OPEN DOOR @ KIRK CAFÉ**

(Formerly Coffee & Company)

Come and join us on a Thursday afternoon for a cup of tea or coffee and a piece, friendly chat and conversation in a convivial atmosphere. We have been meeting for a while now, from 2pm to approximately 4pm, and would love it if you could come and join us.

At the moment we are a small group, men and women, but would like to expand this. Anyone in the community is welcome (young or not so young, families), you do not have to attend Banff Parish Church. You will feel the sense of community and companionship as you hold a warm cup and have your spirits lifted in friendship with one another.

There is no cost at Open Door @ Kirk Café and we hold our group in the Banff Parish Church Hall unless there are any other organisations using this facility. Please look on the Notice Board for information.

We'd love to see you there.



Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too. Philippians 2:4

**1st Banff Boys Brigade Parents Association**



Welcomes you to join them at their

# **COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 3rd February 2018**

**10am – 12noon**

**BB Hall, Seafield Street, Banff**



**Entry £3.00**



## **STAMPS**

Our used stamps are given to Cancer Research. This is such a worthwhile cause. There is a box at the back of the church for your stamps. Please leave a half centimetre of envelope around the stamp when you cut them out. Foreign coins can also raise money for Christian Aid. There is a collection box for coins at the back of the church.





## STOP PRESS! VOLUNTEERS WELCOME FOR THE “TALKING BANFFIE”

Our friends at the “Talking Banffie” would welcome any help you could offer voluntarily in any of the following positions:

1. They are desperate for **Technicians**, and in particular, the post of **Chief Technician** to take charge of organising this part of the production of the Talking newspapers.

The volunteer Technicians, on a rota basis, would have to be good at computing in order to produce cds. It would involve being responsible for the sound and recording while the Readers are reading, and then producing the master cd.

*Time needed would be 1½ hours every 4 or 5 weeks— depending on rota.*

2. People to **help with Admin**. This would involve:

- getting the master cd; producing copies; putting the cds in pouches and sending them out. (The pouches are later returned by each listener.)

*Time needed would be 1 hour every 3 weeks.*

3. They are also desperate for **Editors**. These Editors would work in twos, but the task can be done in your own home. The Editors get a copy of the Banffie newspaper. They then check the paper and select the articles. Training will be given for this post.

*Time needed would be 70 minutes reading time, every 3 or 4 weeks.*

4. People to do the **Reading** while it's being recorded.

*Time needed would be 1½ hours, once every 4 weeks.*

Both our churches have very willing volunteers happy to help with a variety of things! Would you like to offer your help for this very valuable service to our community? If so, please contact **Christine Sim (01261 812773); Lynda Reid (01261 832827); or Val Fittall (07767 013 106).**

Many thanks in anticipation. The Stewardship of Talents Group.



## KING EDWARD SWI SCOTS NIGHT



King Edward Hall on Friday, 23rd February at 6.45pm. Do come along for Haggis, neeps and tatties. Tickets (£12) are available from any member.

For further details contact Linda Thom 01261 815714

Banff Parish Church **Friendship Group** is for anyone in our church and community, male or female, young or not so young, town or country!! ALL ARE WELCOME.

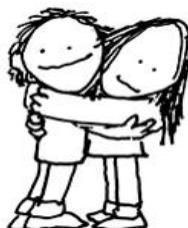
We usually begin our evening with something to eat, anything from a pot-luck supper, to tea and pancakes! The group organise a range of activities - hopefully something to suit everyone.

Do come along and give it a try. We would be delighted to hear any ideas you might have for speakers, workshops, demonstrations or 'whatever'!

We next meet on Tuesday 6th February in Banff Church Hall at 7pm. Hope to see you there!



*We can't help everyone,  
but everyone can help someone!*



*We remember with sadness, the following members who have died and those whose funerals were conducted on behalf of King Edward and Banff Parish Churches.*

Mrs Anne Thomson, Banff  
Mrs Rosie Charles, Banff  
Mr Alexander McIntosh, Banff  
Mr Archie Findlay, Banff  
Mrs Margaret Barclay, Banff



*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*

~~~~~

## Ministry of Flowers

We are grateful to the following who have and will donate flowers to beautify Banff Church during January and February.

7th Jan      Mrs Isobel Leibnitz  
14th Jan     Mrs Lorraine Robertson  
21st Jan     Mrs Brenda Hepburn  
28th Jan     Mr & Mrs George Youngson  
  
4th Feb      Mr Stephen Pratt  
11th Feb     Mrs Mary Mason  
18th Feb     Mrs Linda Kaczmarek  
25th Feb



The flower list for 2018 is at the back of the church. If you would like to donate flowers for a morning service please add your name to an available date. Contact person: Pat McLennan. (Tel 815737)

### **BLYTHSWOOD**

If you are unable to take goods to the Blythswood containers in Banff or Macduff, please contact Ron Smith on 01261 815440.

**BANFF PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND** - Charity No SC015501**Minister:** Rev David I W Locke MA M.Sc., BD Tel: 01261 812107**Pastoral Assistant:** Vera Lumsden Tel 07890 865 931**Children and Family Worker:** Karen Cumming Tel: 07484 090 127

|                                   |                                                |               |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| Session Clerk                     | Mrs Elinor Smith                               | 815782        |
| Worship & Discipleship            | Ministry Team (Contact details above)          |               |
| Fellowship & Service Co-ordinator | Mrs Rosie Blanchard                            | 861029        |
| Outreach Co-ordinator             | Mrs Moira Gess                                 | 815147        |
| Resource Group                    | Mr Jim Buchan                                  |               |
| Pastoral Care Group               | Mrs Mary Cameron                               | 812716        |
| Communion Elder                   | Mr Charlie Smith                               | 815782        |
| Safeguarding Co-ordinator         | Mr Charlie Smith                               | 815782        |
| Roll Keeper                       | Mr Donald Galloway                             |               |
| Sunday Club Contact               | Mrs Karen Cumming                              | 07484090127   |
| Church Officer                    | Mr Gordon Mustard                              | 861545        |
| Property Convenors                | Ron Smith & Ian Cameron                        | 815440 812716 |
| Hall Keeping Team                 | Contact Church Office                          | 818211        |
| Magazine Editor                   | Mrs Janet Simpson                              | 843221        |
| Organist                          | Mr Stephen Pratt                               | 833113        |
| Church Secretary                  | Mrs Janet Simpson                              | 843221        |
| Life and Work Convener            | Mrs Moira Ingram                               | 812393        |
| Flower Convener                   | Mrs Pat McLennan                               | 815737        |
| Resource Group Clerk              | Mrs Irene Tewnion                              |               |
| Treasurer/Gift Aid Convener       | Mr Trevor Leuty                                | 821282        |
| FWO Treasurer                     | Mrs Moira Gess                                 | 815147        |
| Church Office                     | janetsimpson@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk | 818211        |

**KING EDWARD CHURCH** - Charity No SC015077

|                            |                    |              |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Session Clerk              | Mrs Margaret Brown | 821316       |
| Roll Keeper                | Mrs Nancy Simpson  | 01888 568602 |
| Treasurer                  | Mrs Sandra French  |              |
| Fabric Convener            | Mr Eric Wilson     | 832951       |
| Church Officer/Hall Keeper | Mr Frank Schapitz  | 821123       |
| Organist                   | Mrs Eleanor Wilson | 818240       |
| Flower Convener            | Mrs Isobel Smith   | 821348       |
| Guild President            | Mrs Eleanor Wilson | 818240       |
| Hall Committee President   | Mrs Jayne Pirie    | 821680       |

# **Banff and King Edward Parish Churches**

Banff Parish Church - Charity No. SC 015501 King Edward Parish Church - Charity No. SC 015077

**Minister:** Rev David I W Locke MA M.Sc., BD Tel: 01261 812107

email:DLocke@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Pastoral Assistant:** Vera Lumsden Tel 07890865931

**Children and Family Worker:** Karen Cumming Tel 07484090127

**Church Office** 01261 818211

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|       |          |             |                                       |
|-------|----------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Thurs | Feb 1st  | Noon-1.30pm | Monthly Lunch in Banff Church Hall    |
| Sun   | Feb 4th  | 6pm         | Evening Service in Banff Church Hall  |
| Tues  | Feb 6th  | 3pm         | Service in Airlie Gardens             |
| Tues  | Feb 6th  | 7pm         | Friendship Group in Banff Church Hall |
| Weds  | Feb 7th  | 2.15pm      | Service in Doocot View                |
| Wed   | Feb 7th  | 7pm         | Banff Kirk Session Meeting            |
| Sat   | Feb 10th | Noon        | Scottish Lunch in Banff Church Hall   |
| Fri   | Feb 16th | 5pm         | Messy Church in Banff Church Hall     |
| Fri   | Feb 23rd | 7.30pm      | Scots Night in King Edward Hall       |
| Tues  | Feb 27th | 2.30pm      | Service in Banff Care Home            |
| Thurs | Mar 1st  | Noon-1.30pm | Monthly Lunch in Banff Church Hall    |

### **Regular Activities Banff Church Hall**

|           |          |         |                       |
|-----------|----------|---------|-----------------------|
| Tues      | 10-      | 11.30am | Tots and Teas         |
| Weds      | 1.30-    | 3.00pm  | Tots and Teas         |
| Weds      | 3.00-    | 4.45pm  | KidZone               |
| Thurs     |          | 2-4pm   | Open Door @ Kirk Cafe |
| 1st &     | 3rd Tues | 7pm     | Friendship Group      |
| Last Sat. | of month | 10am    | Busy Hands            |

## **BRIDGE MAGAZINE**

The March Bridge will be a King Edward Special. Please give some thought to articles you would like to submit and hand them to the Editor by Sunday, 18th February 2018

Articles can be emailed to [rjs.simpson@btinternet.com](mailto:rjs.simpson@btinternet.com). Please include 'Bridge' in the subject line.

