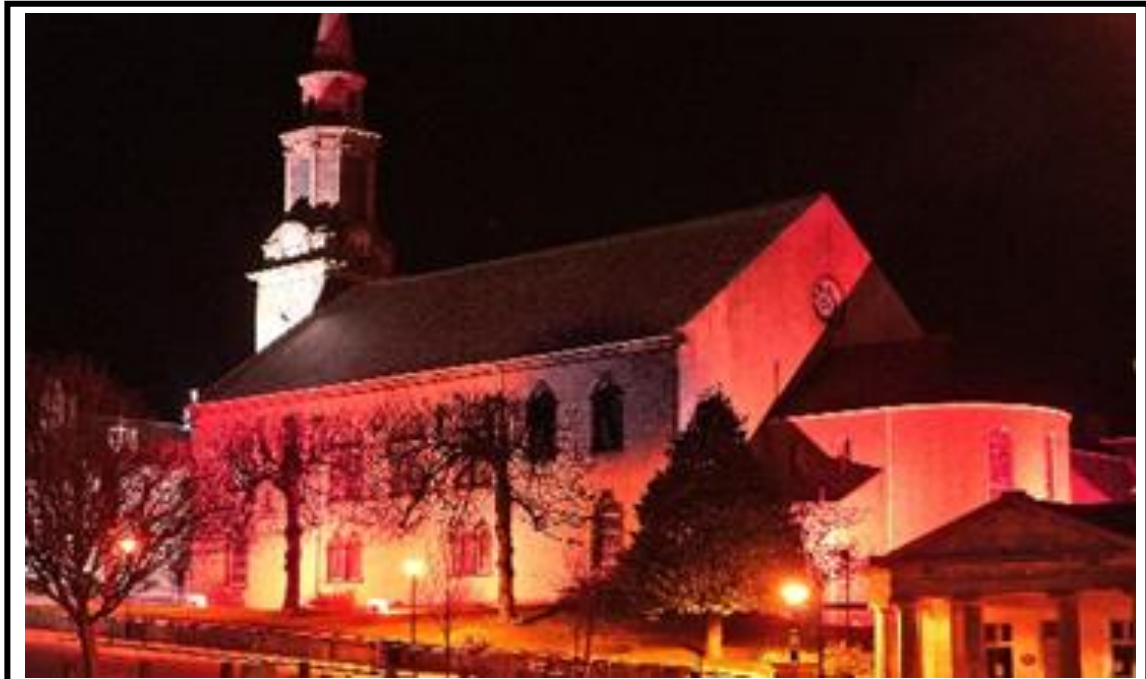


The Bridge

December 2019/January/February 2020



Banff & King Edward Parish Churches
www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

Dear Friends in Banff and King Edward

In the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace, there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it, with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this. [Isaiah 9]

We are close to the start of Advent, and probably well into it when you receive this, so the reading above reminds us of the hope we start to see again during Advent as we approach the time to remember the birth of Jesus and **remember He comes not just as a baby but to be the one who offers us hope of a better world.**

On Sunday 24th November we thought about what sort of king we are looking



forward to at Christmas, and compared Jesus to modern day politicians who are seeking our votes – who were asked by the public the key questions: **how can we trust you and does truth matter to you?**

Comparing Jesus to most politicians, we see an integrity in his person that is unrivalled; He lived out what he claimed and his vision of a better world is unique. He spoke and lived out truth in the way politicians rarely do and challenged them and us with the truth of our weaknesses, without fear or favour, in ways politicians never do. He uniquely gives us hope when we despair about the state of our politics, country or world. He cares for us and for our society but says the answer lies within each of us to follow Him and his way. He showed He is truth personified, so we can trust Him to bring to fruition the dreams Isaiah had, bit by bit over time. So let Advent and Christmas encourage you God is still at work through the spirit of Jesus which shines again at Christmas to refresh our vision and trust to follow Him

I cannot tell you how to vote in the coming election, but trust you see how Jesus stands out above others who ask us to follow them, so you can **use Jesus as your yardstick in voting**; His person, His guidance and His 'policies' about loving our neighbour and building a better world of peace and justice.



His Spirit and light shines especially through you and me being open and responding individually and together through church, as the posters for our Advent events suggest.

Advent is a time we can prepare to open up more to and share the Hope, Peace,

CHRISTMAS ADVENTURE
Activities, services and fun for all ages—ALL ARE WELCOME

DISPLAY OF NATIVITY SETS AND KNITTED ANGELS.
children's nativity hunt and much more! In Banff Parish Church, from 10am-12.30pm on Saturday 30 Nov, 7, 14, 21 of December. Stay for a cuppa and seasonal homebake.

ANGEL CAKE CAFE Saturday 30 November 10-12.30pm
All welcome—pop in for an angel cake and a cuppa. Fun activities for children. **BUSY HANDS** will also meet in the hall from 10am. Final day for handing in knitted/crocheted angels...stay for a cuppa and angel cake!

ANGEL HUNT.
Look out for the angels hidden in the church grounds. Shop vehicles around the town.

LANTERN PROCESSION AND CAROLS by the BAY Sunday 1 December.
Procession will leave River Church at 4.15pm led by Pipe Bands, proceeding along High Street to Low street to the Spotty Bag Shop car park for Carol singing led by Deveron River Brass Band. (Open Public)

KNIT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS VERSE
Saturday 7 December 10-12.30
Under the expert guidance of Janet 2nd handily demonstrated, bring along your own verse.
—Pots including fabric refreshments

KNIT YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS VERSE
Saturday 24 December 10-12.30
All are welcome including refreshments. Refreshments in the hall from 10am to 12.30pm or to leave.
—Pots including fabric refreshments

MISSUS CHRISTMAS & BREAKFAST
Sunday 15 December 10am
Come and make a Christmas followed by breakfast in the hall before a hot Christmas service in the church at 11am.
FOR ALL AGES 0-100

CHRISTMAS CARDS
Sunday 22 December 10-12.30
Drop off your children at the hall for a morning of Christmas activities, videos & music. For ages 9-13. Places MUST be booked.

FAMILY CANDLELIT CELEBRATION SERVICE Sunday 22 December 6pm
The service will include Kidzone Choir singing songs from 'Noanana Rock' and other church groups taking part. Refreshments in the hall after the service.

DECEMBER SERVICES in Banff Parish Church (opening services @ 10am)
1st December — 1st Sunday of Advent
23rd December — Christmas Service
24th December Watchnight Service 11.30pm (informal carol singing from 11.15pm)
CHRISTMAS DAY at 10am — short informal service for all ages

FOR DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE SEE FACEBOOK: Banff and King Edward Parish Churches
Contact: 01261 818211 or email: info@banffparishchurches.org.uk
Southside Church No. 802220201

Love and Joy He brings in different ways. The Bridge mentions some really good initiatives such as Traidcraft but also includes the second half of our advent posters showing lots of amazing things going on in church over the 4 weeks of Advent. I hope you get a chance to attend or hear about some of them – they show that the Spirit of Christ is very much at work through our churches.

One of the ways this is increasingly happening is through our growing co-operation with other churches. In Banff we have been building up a much closer working relationship with for example the River Church and Macduff Parish church. This was exemplified a year ago when churches together marked the centenary of WWI by a special service on the Bridge between our two towns, an event which touched many in our communities and helped bring people of the two towns closer together. Since then we have been doing more together and inside you will read about the Big Quiz night in aid of Tearfund when folk from Banff and Macduff and King Edward churches shared fun together and raised over £450 for the world’s poorest. The poster overleaf for the lantern parade and carols by the bay is another really positive example.

Our developing work together with schools is also encouraging and schools have helped make lanterns for the parade. Recently River Church and Banff Parish church worked together to present bibles to Banff Primary School. I continue to be encouraged by the warm relationship King Edward church has with King Edward Primary – I think the children and staff really appreciate the assemblies and services we hold with them and we look forward to the Christmas service for the school, as also that for Banff Primary school, and assemblies at Banff Academy where our input is also much appreciated.



We have also as churches increasingly worked together to speak out about issues of concern in the community – most recently about the downsizing of Tesco and of Chalmers hospital Small Injuries Unit; and about wider community

regeneration. Meanwhile discussions have been continuing to expand Banff Churches Together, which has been a great force for good through co-operation over the past 20 years, into a wider grouping involving other nearby churches. We in churches **have many issues still to deal with in an increasingly secular society**. Presbyteries are starting to think about how church structures can be modernised to deal with this. Aberdeen Presbytery has united with Shetland Presbytery and both have announced radical restructuring plans so resources and people can be more effective. Our own Presbytery of Buchan is also starting to look to see new ways forward for our area, but plans are likely to come about gradually over coming years. We all have to keep striving to find ways to let the light shine, but **we need to keep open to the signs of light locally that can give us hope this Christmas**. In Banff and King Edward for example we were concerned about the loss of some church leaders, but are now encouraged by new arrangements that rely more on teamwork, especially our great new Banff Session Clerk team; see inside. We have also been encouraged by new members.

You may not be able to tell from this photo, but **Banff Parish church is well lit at night in a way that helps brighten our community**.

In recent months in addition to normal night-lighting, we have lit up the outside of the church purple to highlight polio concerns, pink to highlight the needs of babies born sick and red for Remembrance. In King Edward, the church bell is now ringing out again regularly on Sundays. So through all the troubles of winter, look out for the sights and sounds of the light of the Christchild which still shines on; may His light shine for you once again this Christmas time.



Yours faithfully, *David*

Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

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- Our annual **Memorial Service** will take place in Banff Parish Church on 12th January at 6.30pm. A quiet service of remembrance. We welcome anyone who feels the loss of a loved one, the pain of ill-health, the pain of a broken heart or any hurt. An opportunity to remember, reflect and share the pain - for we are not alone.



Good News!

We were delighted to hear that John Lange, who attends Banff Parish Church every Sunday and has recently become a member, has received an award for Horticultural Achievement. John and a number of others were presented with the award by Carole Baxter of *Beechgrove Garden* fame. The learners completed a Grow and Learn



nurture award, taught by staff at Banff Day Care Centre and awarded by the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society. Other recipients were Steven Summers, David Robertson, Jimmy Smith, Brodie Smith, Paul Burnett, Jordan Geddes, Laura Winton and Max Glasstone-Cavenay. Well done everyone!

The deadline for the March/April/May issue of the Bridge is 5pm on Thursday 13th February. Please send your contributions to
TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com

At the September meeting of BCT Rev. David Locke (BPC) highlighted the progress made by the school Chaplains at the Academy who were now more visible due to walk-about with the Deputy Head and meeting with pupils in the school Library at lunch times. With regard to the Community Council, Mr. Locke indicated the council Regeneration authorities were wanting to take stock of progress at this the half way point of Banff Regeneration. BCT representatives expressed concern at the lack of visible progress, with the exception of the Smiddy. A separate Community Council idea was to organise a Community Plan: the group thought the views of younger generations were vital and the Academy could provide the perfect source for such input.

Irene Finlayson (BPC) requested churches supported the Banff Rotary Club's Purple for Polio campaign from 20th to 27th October, which was raising funds for the eradication of this disease world-wide. She recommended church buildings be lit up in purple for the week, and purple crocus bulbs planted in support.

Tina Harris (OLMC) outlined how she was hoping to resurrect the Pilgrimage Group and wanted to plan a Pilgrimage day along the Banffshire coastal route.

At the October meeting we were delighted to again be joined by additional participants from churches in Whitehills, Portsoy and Cornhill. We were especially heartened by the notification that the Catholic Church in Banff had appointed a new Polish Priest, Father Piotr who was to be installed by the Bishop on Sunday 2nd November. Whitehills church were keen to discuss the proposed changes in the Church of Scotland under the Radical Action Plan, as due to the present vacancy, their congregation was apprehensive. Andy Simpson (MPC) explained all talks were at the initial stage and nothing concrete had been decided.

The discussion focused on the role of this broader group of churches. Naturally, this fell under two categories, namely, activities which would be done by smaller sub-groups such as Remembrance Day, and those worked collaboratively e.g. presenting *Your Move* booklets to schools. Other suggestions ranged from staging a joint Big Picnic, promoting the Arts through a Gospel Choir or forming a Drama Group to take the word of the gospel out to the broader community. It was agreed greater use of social media e.g. live streaming of services (currently undertaken at the River Church), use of websites and Facebook pages to publicise each other's events and magazines were essential, as well as individual church calendars being shared. It was suggested each church appoint a person to be

responsible for receiving and giving out such information. The need to support each other in times of difficulty was promoted.

It was agreed the various churches would consider expectations for the next year 2020, set up an Information calendar and provide ideas on how to connect with the younger generation.

Fellowship Group – a note of thanks

Rosie Blanchard

To all my friends and colleagues on the Fellowship Group.

As you may all have heard already I have retired from the Fellowship Group.

As with everyone else I am getting to an age where everything is just getting a bit more difficult.

I would like to thank all my friends from the group for your help and assistance over the last twenty years.

I will miss the monthly lunches with all your friendliness and banter.

I'll still be seeing you around the church.

Wish you all the very best for the future.

Rosie.

Thank you too Rosie for all your many years of dedicated service. The fellowship provided has been much appreciated by the many in our church and community that you and your team have supported.

Answers to First Lines Quiz on page 23.
1 – 1984 by George Orwell; 2 – Little Women by Louisa May Alcott; 3 – Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee; 4 – David Copperfield by Charles Dickens; 5 – Moby Dick by Hermann Melville; 6 – Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen; 7 – Catch 22 by Joseph Heller; 8 – Ulysses by James Joyce; 9 – To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee; 10 – The Hitch-hikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams; 11 – The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck.

Morning Prayer

By Canon Owen Vigeon (submitted by Mrs. Sandie Hughes).

Father, I thank You for the gift of this new day.

You have given it to me

And I give it back to You in loving service and praise.

Bless me then

in the places I go,

the people I meet,

the words that I speak,

the thoughts that I think,

the emotions I feel,

the decisions I take,

the prayers that I offer.

So at the end of this day

it may return to You

as a day when in some small way

Your name has been honoured,

Your kingdom come

and Your will be done

in my living of it,

in my little corner of Your world.

I ask this in the name of Jesus Christ.

AMEN.



Elinor and Charlie Smith were presented with a leaving gift and flowers in appreciation of their many years of dedicated service to and leadership of Banff Parish Church.

We wish them every blessing as they move to pastures new.

One Thousand Men Are Walking

This poem, written by Joshua Dyer from England, was used in our Remembrance Services in Banff and King Edward, as well as in many others across the country. Joshua, aged 14, was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day 2019. An hour later, without any help, he had produced the following poignant poem.

'One Thousand Men Are Walking'

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
they walk toward the light milord
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun
these men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved
they march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave
they dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men



Banff Parish Church remembers: so lovely to see again the wonderful poppies knitted last year by so many people in our communities working together.

Joshua Dyer - 2019 (aged 14)

Outreach Report Autumn 2019

Moira Gess

In 2004 having been a member of the outreach group I became Co-ordinator of the Outreach, Worship & Discipleship Group. It seems a very long time ago when you say it out loud but it has gone by quite quickly.

Having reformed the group we worked through the 2003 Church Without Walls report to assess what we did well as a church, and things we could do better.

The 'to-do' list got quite long...but I am encouraged when I look back and see the changes from that first meeting.

Amongst other things, we now have Elders doing readings and prayers, coffee before services and more people taking part in worship. We wanted to try a joint Easter service with King Edward and this is now a regular occurrence. All these were under the Worship part of our group.

All our energy now goes into Outreach. We have tried lots of things over the years to reach out to our community, some more successful than others.

We have run successful holiday clubs and Coffee and Crèche has gone from strength to strength; with Karen at the helm it is now on twice a week and called Tots & Teas. High Street Gang continues and is also renamed, now known as KidZone. We've also tried a puppet team and a Friday night drop in for teens, which was very noisy and with only limited success.

We have had whole outreach weekends to connect with our community at times like the Coastal fringe, Aberdeenshire Doors Open Days and Christmas. Please come along and join in with the extensive events and services planned for Advent this year! (see page 13 for more details).

A common question in churches today is where are the children????

We value our children and families in church, but some families don't have the example, or habit, or even just the time in today's busy life. It's very easy to become side-tracked and just skip church.



So a lot of our energy over the last six years has been going into MESSY CHURCH..... which we have on a Friday evening at 5.00pm. It lasts for about 2 hours, usually about every 5 or 6 weeks. Look out for the dates on our FaceBook page or in The Bridge magazine.

Messy Church is a form of church for children and adults that involves creativity, worship and hospitality.

It's not a kids club, it's not a craft club, but we do crafts and **yes** they can be messy. **Messy Church** is for people at all stages of their faith journey and of any age. All are welcome... single...married...widowed...divorced...young...or not so young.

But WHY **Messy Church**!!!! The simple answer!!!! It was named as such **because life can be Messy!**

At a typical Messy Church session we meet in the hall and have a bit of a catch-up before coming through to the church for worship. We sing, we pray and we learn about God's Word through Bible stories – often very animated stories. I treasure the memory of a very small boy, foot atop Ian Cameron's chest as he vanquished Goliath lying on the floor; Vera was in charge of worship that day!!! But I am sure that wee boy will still remember the story of David and Goliath. We learn about Bible themes too; next Messy Church we are exploring **The Christmas Story**. We then go back to the hall and do some **Messy** crafts that fit with the story, and perhaps a challenge working in teams or groups.

Then we all enjoy food (including wonderful macaroni cheese – a big favourite). We sit in groups or families and it's a time for us to catch up with everyone. Our families come in all shapes and sizes, some with mums, or dads, grannies, aunties, uncles, big kids down to very little kids. Last Messy Church our youngest was five days old, and our oldest...well was quite a bit older. I am sure most folk will recognise him!!!!



We usually have about 65-70 folk at Messy Church, and it can get noisy. But, when I walk round the supermarket and folk chat to me about what we've been doing, it is so worthwhile. Please come along to any Messy Church and meet our families.

Can I please take this moment to thank all who come along and help in all sorts of ways, it would not happen without you.

I hope that gives you a sense of what our Outreach Group do. It sounds busy and it can be. But perhaps the best outreach comes from the little things, the things we – and you! – can do so easily...literally REACH OUT, by a smile, a helping hand, a kind word to someone...all these things show God at work in us, and are probably the best OUTREACH for our CHURCH.

On behalf of the Outreach Group may I wish you a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2020.

“THE BIG QUIZ” – TEARFUND

Joyce Millar

An enjoyable night was experienced by almost 90 people on Saturday 16th November when Banff Parish Church Hall was the venue for “The Big Quiz.”



People all over the country were joining the folks from Banff, Macduff, King Edward, Portsoy and even further afield to answer questions on Books, History, The Natural World and Sport amongst other things. The buzz in the hall grew as the rounds progressed and the competition hotted up. Halfway through the evening there was a pause to explain some of the work which Tearfund does.

Tearfund is a Christian charity which works with the poorest communities in the world wherever the need is greatest. Today they are present in over 50 countries – working in close partnership with local churches and Christian organisations. Tearfund also has over 50 years' experience of responding to disasters and crises.

After this reminder of the real purpose of the evening, refreshments were served. Everyone collected a “pie in a poke” and a cup of tea and took some time off to chat to people other than their teammates. Then it was back to the quiz!



The victorious team “The HouseMartins” received a lovely hamper of Fairtrade goods.

However, the best news of the evening is that £450 was collected for Tearfund.

Thank you to everyone who took part and contributed to making the evening such a success.

CHRISTMAS ADVENTure

Activities, services and fun for all ages

ALL ARE WELCOME



ANGEL HUNT.

Look out for Angels hiding in shop windows around the town.

DISPLAY OF NATIVITY SETS and KNITTED ANGELS

children's nativity hunt and much more! In Banff Parish Church, from **10am-12.30pm on December 7, 14, 21** Stay for a cuppa and seasonal homebake.

MAKE YOUR OWN CHRISTMAS WREATH

Saturday 7 December 10-12.30

Under the expert guidance of Jenni (ex butterfly blooms)

£25 – holly will be provided, bring along decorations.

Price includes light refreshments



MAKE YOUR OWN GINGERBREAD HOUSE

Saturday 14 December 10-12.30

£6 per house includes refreshments

Wrapped in cellophane to give as a gift or to keep.

under 12's should bring an adult.



MESSY CHRISTINGLE & BREAKFAST

Sunday 15 December 10am

Come and make a Christingle followed by breakfast in the hall before a fun Christingle

Service in the church at 11am

FOR ALL AGES 0-100



CHRISTMAS CHAOS

Saturday 21 December 10-12

Drop off your children at the hall for a morning of Christmas activities, videos & music.

For age 5-12. Places MUST be booked.

FAMILY CANDLELIT CELEBRATION SERVICE Sunday 22 December 6pm

The service will include Kidzone Choir singing songs from 'Hosanna Rock' and other church groups taking part. Refreshments in the hall after the service.

DECEMBER SERVICES in Banff Parish Church (morning services @ 11am)

1st December — 1st Sunday of Advent

8th December — 2nd Sunday of Advent

15th December — Christingle Service

22nd December — 4th Sunday of Advent

24th December Watchnight Service 11.30pm (informal carol singing from 11.15pm)

FOR DETAILS OF ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE SEE FACEBOOK: Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

Contact: 01261 818211 or email: info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

KidZone Choir



It was once again lovely to be joined by representatives of our KidZone choir at the recent Thanksgiving of Talents Service. The children sang beautifully and many of the congregation were moved to tears! Well done girls – we look forward to welcoming you into church again soon.

If you would like to receive your Bridge by email rather than have it delivered, please email info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk and ask to be added to the email distribution list.

Introducing... Banff Parish Church Session Clerk and Assistant Session Clerk

Following the departure of Elinor Smith it became necessary to appoint a new Session Clerk for Banff Parish Church. Over recent years this has become an increasingly major role requiring substantial amounts of time and work. Consequently the Kirk Session decided to share the role across two people, both of whom we're sure will be familiar faces to many of you! Here they tell us a little more about themselves.

Session Clerk – Irene Finlayson

My association with Banff Parish Church started at five years old, when I joined the Sunday School and during my first Christmas appeared as an angel in Handel's Messiah standing in a tableau for an hour. The Rev. Finlay Clarke was the Minister at that time. Over the years, I acted in many Sunday School concerts and plays and was entered into competitive Festivals as well as being a member of the Junior Choir and later the Choral Society. These early experiences gave me a love of acting, theatre and music which have remained my main interests ever since. I joined Banff Parish Church when I was 16 under the mentorship of the Rev. James Wilkie and later was married in the church by the Rev. Alec Geddes. As most of my working life was spent overseas in the Middle East, I did not reconnect with Banff Parish Church again until I retired to Banff.

This new role as Session Clerk offers an amazing opportunity for me to work collaboratively with the Session and Congregation to take our church forward into a new chapter in its development, as well as supporting the Rev. David Locke in his day to day Ministry. I am looking forward to working in partnership with Margaret Henderson, as both of us have a shared vision and complimentary skills which we can bring to the table in a leadership capacity.

Our church is at a cross roads to either modernise and be 'fit for purpose' or stagnate. Huge challenges and work-loads are ahead in order to deliver all the resources we need. We have a predominately older congregation so have to find the means of attracting younger people and families back into church, to give true meaning to their lives and show Banff Parish Church as a beacon of light and hope in our community.

I am not daunted by the task ahead but look forward to it. Daily prayer, readings and inner conversations with God, have provided me with an unbreakable spiritual connection, which gives me strength, inner calmness and absolute trust.

Life is a constant journey in seeking true grace. Together our faith, trust in God and each other will see our congregation meet the changes in what I believe is an exciting road ahead.



Assistant Session Clerk – Margaret Henderson

I have served as an elder in the Church of Scotland for over 20 years, more than half of that time here in Banff. Since taking early retirement from teaching modern languages, I have attempted to get to know thoroughly the work of the various church groups and currently serve on quite a few - Stewardship of Talents, Grant Sourcing and The Bridge Editorial Team. I also enjoy assisting my husband, James, on the church bus as part of a rota, serving at the Open Door Kirk Cafe and helping out now and again at Messy Church. You may even notice me singing in the choir on a Sunday!

Serving in Banff Parish Church is never dull. Working with such a range of personalities is challenging, encouraging, thought provoking and joyful in equal measure. Rather like teaching really. As we discuss exciting plans for the future of our church and cement our position at the centre of our community, I look forward to being part of that process. I also look forward to getting to know better some members of our congregation and sharing in their vision for our church.

Like everyone else, I have experienced personal loss, difficulties and sorrow in my life. I cannot imagine doing so without my faith. It helps me every day to be grateful for the family members and friends who left me far too early and the time we spent together. It picks me up when I'm feeling sad, helps me to smile and move forward and most of all, puts things in perspective. As my dad always said, "there's aye somebody war aff than yersell".

Living in King Edward surrounded by rolling countryside, where I enjoy gardening and walking, I am ever aware of God's creation. The view from my window is constantly changing. In quieter moments I am an avid reader, enjoy writing and listening to music of many types. I love poetry. It often says what I would like to say if only I had the words. I am a huge fan of the late Leonard Cohen and spend many hours in his company through poetry and music. Then there's the tennis. If

you think David is a rugby fan, wait till you discuss the really beautiful game with me! A fan for over 40 years, I can even name the umpires.

If you don't know me yet, please come up and say hello. Be patient and forgiving as is our father in heaven. I'm just a learner!

- "ring the bells that still can ring, forget your special offering, there's a crack in everything. That's how the light gets in". As Mr Cohen said, nothing or nobody is perfect and that's okay.

Bear with me!

*Don't forget to check
FaceBook for up-to-date
information about all that's
happening in the church over
the festive period!*



Santa's little helpers: our volunteers help pack the Blythswood shoe boxes into the back of the lorry.

NEWS FLASH!

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE-BOX APPEAL 2019

A huge thank you to all who contributed to this year's appeal. We sent away 149 boxes this year – a great effort and be assured that every box will be delivered to someone who really will appreciate it and your box will make someone's Christmas really special.

We've also had reports that 2019 was a record-breaking year for King Edward. 17 shoeboxes for the Blythswood Appeal were collected from King Edward Primary School and 18 from King Edward Church.

Well done everyone!

On a personal note.....

(Notes from the diary of the Pastoral Assistant.)

I should have worn a pedometer! How else could I count the steps I've taken as I've visited some of our Elders' districts in Banff, Turriff, Whitehills, Ladysbridge and King Edward in recent weeks?



I've greatly appreciated the many warm welcomes, conversations, prayers shared and offers of flycups as I've gone round, hoping to remind everyone how much God, and our church, cares for them.

With many more districts still to visit, I may not be able to promise, like The Proclaimers, that "I would walk 500 miles" just to knock on your door, but, just as they were spurred on by love for someone, I'd like to think that I and our Elders are spurred on by love for the One who has gone far, far more than the extra mile for all of us, a sojourn He began in a cowshed in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago.

Blessings for Christmas and the New Year.

Vera.

King Edward SWI – Dates for your Diary.

Wednesday 15th January	Iain Matthews – Ties
Wednesday 19th February	Talk on Downs Syndrome by Sonia Mitchell
Wednesday 18th March	Fashion Show (fund-raiser) by M&Co
Wednesday 15th April	A.G.M.
Wednesday 20th May	Day in the life of a Paramedic
Saturday 20th June	Mystery Outing – details to follow

Meetings held in King Edward Hall at 7.30pm

New Members welcome.

Come and join us for fun and friendship with a fine cuppa and home bakes.

“Our vision is a world freed from the scandal of poverty, where trade is just and people and communities can flourish.”

As many of you will know I have recently introduced a Traidcraft stall to our Church so I thought you might be interested in some of the background to the organisation.

Traidcraft was established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty. It is the UK's leading fair trade organisation and is made up of a trading company (Traidcraft plc.) and an international development charity (Traidcraft Exchange). They are the original fair trade pioneers in the UK, advocating the importance of organic farming, sustainability and transparency to the lives of growers and artisans around the world.

Traidcraft started with fair trade coffee, tea and sugar before branching out to other goods. The definition of fair trade is that producers in developing countries are paid a fair price for their work by companies in developed countries. It's when the price we pay for products gives enough to producers for them to afford life's essentials - like food, education and healthcare.

Traidcraft works in over 30 developing countries in Africa, Asia and South America. Buying Traidcraft products helps thousands of people provide for their families

Key Principles of Fair Trade

- Trading practices are fair and not one-sided.
- Prices paid are fair and sufficient for producers and workers to earn more than enough to meet their day-to-day needs.
- Payments are often made in advance to ensure the supplier can fulfil orders.
- Producers and workers have a voice, whether organised into groups or involved in workplaces where there is freedom of association.
- Safe working conditions, non-discrimination and welfare of children.

If these things are important to you please support our stall. This is not a fundraiser for the Church. All monies made will go back to Traidcraft to help them continue their work. I plan to have a Traidcraft stall in Church throughout our Advent Festival and, if people are interested, on a monthly basis from January 2020.

(some extracts from the Traidcraft website)

Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

Sunday 15th December

Join us in the hall at 10am to make your Christingle
Christingle service in Banff Parish Church 11am

Sunday 22nd December

9.30am in King Edward - 11 am in Banff

Candelit Family Celebration Service in Banff - 6pm

Tuesday 24th December

King Edward Church 7pm (Informal Carol singing at 6.45 pm)

JOIN US FOR TEA & MINCEMEAT PIES AFTER THE SERVICE

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE Banff Parish Church

11.15 pm Carol singing 11.30 Watchnight Service

Wednesday 25th December in Banff Church at 10 am

FAMILY CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE- short informal service for all

Sunday 29th December and Sunday 5th January

King Edward 9.30am Banff 11am

Thoughts for ending and starting the year.

Sunday 12th January at 6.30pm

ANNUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

A special service for remembering loved ones at the start of the new year.



ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US AT ANY OF OUR SERVICES AND EVENTS
WE WISH EVERYONE THE PEACE ONLY CHRISTMAS CAN BRING

The Museum of Banff

Alistair Mason

Looking for something to do through the dreich winter months? Why not pop along to our local museum for a look? Alistair Mason explains why...

Banff is a very historic town, so it should not be surprising that the Banff Museum is one of the oldest in Scotland, founded in 1828. The major concern of most local museums is the last hundred years – “My granny had one of these” – but Banff Museum goes much further back. We have prehistoric material dug up locally. For a very long time this museum was the home of the Deskford Carnyx. We have medieval stone carvings from the days of the Carmelite monks. We have real royal charters, not just copies, signed by kings and queens. We have evidence of Banff’s glory days: there are more listed Georgian buildings in Banff than in any other small town in Scotland. The Georgian gentry from miles around spent the winter in their town houses in Banff, having a wonderful time. One evidence of this is the silver cutlery. Banff had its own assay mark (‘B’ of course) and the Museum has a definitive collection of Banff silver through the centuries. What we think is the oldest silver teapot in Scotland is on display.



Because this is for *The Bridge*, I should say that one of my personal favourites of the whole collection is the lovely Boyndie communion beaker, and alongside it the historic silver (and pewter) ware from the local Episcopal churches, even a

chalice, rather like the Boyndie one, rescued from the ashes of a chapel burnt down by the Duke of Cumberland's army in 1746. I have hopes of adding more about the history of the churches in and around Banff.

The Museum was closed for two whole years for refurbishment, and now is lovely and white and spacious, and the Hanging of Macpherson mural looks brilliant. There is a whole new room, and even a sea view, which we never had before. And if you can't quite manage the wonderful alphabet staircase, there is now a lift. Not everything has come back yet. The Museum Service at Mintlaw wants to carry out conservation work on some treasures that the volunteers who run the Museum deeply miss. But we still have a lot to show you. Come and see us!

The museum is currently open from 10.30am until 1.00pm every Saturday. Look out for longer opening hours during the summer.



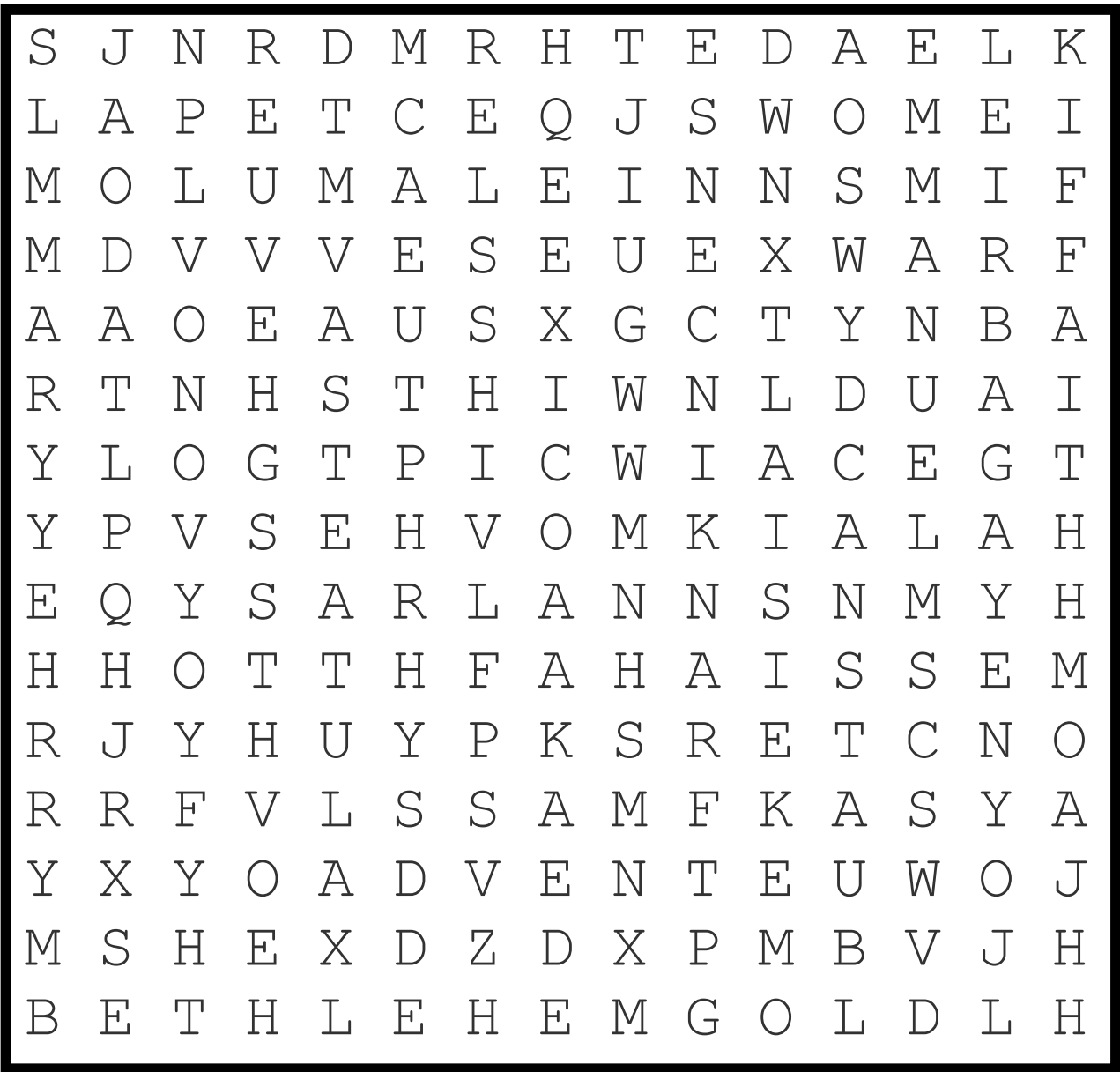
Banff Parish Church and River Church were delighted to present Action Bibles and Usborne Children's Bibles to Banff Primary at a recent assembly.

First Lines Quiz

Looking for some Festive Fun? See how many of these you can identify! Answers on page 7.

OPENING SENTENCE	TITLE	AUTHOR
1. It was a bright cold day in April and the clocks were striking thirteen.		
2. "Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without presents" grumbled Jo lying on the rug.		
3. I was set down from the carrier's cart at the age of three; and there with a sense of bewilderment and terror my life in the village began.		
4. Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life, or whether that station will be held by anybody else these pages must show.		
5. Call me Ismael.		
6. It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.		
7. It was love at first sight. The first time Yossarian saw the chaplain he fell madly in love with him.		
8. Stately, plump Buck Mulligan came from the stair head, bearing a bowl of lather on which a mirror and a razor lay crossed.		
9. When he was nearly thirteen my brother Jem got his arm badly broken at the elbow.		
10. Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the Western Spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun.		
11. To the red country and part of the grey country of Oklahoma the last rains came gently, and they did not cut the scarred earth.		

Christmas wordsearch



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
EMMANUEL
FAITH
FRANKINCENSE
GABRIEL
GOLD
HEAVENLY

HOLY FAMILY
HOPE
HOST
HYMNS
JESUS
JOSEPH
JOY
LOVE
MANGER

MARY
MASS
MESSIAH
MYRRH
PEACE
SALVATION
WISE MEN

And if all the Christmas feasting is getting on top of you...

EATING IN THE FIFTIES and SIXTIES.

Pasta was not eaten in Australia.

Curry was a surname.

A takeaway was a mathematical problem.

A pizza was something to do with a leaning tower.

All potato crisps were plain; the only choice we had was whether to put the salt on or not.

Rice was only eaten as a milk pudding.

Calamari was called squid and we used it as fish bait.

A Big Mac was what we wore when it was raining.

Brown bread was something only poor people ate.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days, and was regarded as being white gold.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Fish didn't have fingers in those days.

Eating raw fish was called poverty, not sushi.

None of us had ever heard of yoghurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

People who didn't peel potatoes were regarded as lazy.

Indian restaurants were only found in India.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognised food.

"Kebab" was not even a word, never mind a food.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly, muesli was readily available, it was called cattle feed.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than petrol for it, they would have become a laughing stock!

But the one thing that we never ever had on our table in the sixties...elbows or phones!

With thanks to Andy Taylor for submitting.

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.

- Helen Brown, Doo’cot View, Banff**
- Eleanor Wilson, Boyndie Street West, Banff**
- Rosemary James, Airlie Gardens, 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.”

~~~~~

*We are delighted to welcome into our Church family the following new members:*

- John Lange** *(by transfer)*
- Glen Martin** *(by profession of faith)*
- Sheila Martin** *(by profession of faith)*
- George (Dod) Youngson** *also stepped forward in faith by baptism.*

~~~~~

Ministry of Flowers

December flowers will be donated by Mr & Mrs R Smith, Mrs Elizabeth Rennie, Mrs Brenda Hepburn, Mr Stephen Pratt and Mr & Mrs K Donald.

We are aware from the cards and phone calls of thanks how well the flowers are received, they brighten up our church and they brighten up the homes of those who receive them, being a reminder that our church family is thinking of them. On average we distribute 5/6 bunches of flowers every Sunday and we are very grateful for the support from all who donate for the flowers throughout the year to make this possible.

Our new flower calendar will be available at the back of the church soon for folks to add their name. Please speak to Pat McLennan (Flower Convener) if you have any special requests e.g. specific dates, colour of flowers etc. and the flower team will do our best to oblige.

We take this opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.

BANFF PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND - Charity No SC015501
Minister: Rev David I W Locke MA M.Sc., BD Tel: 01261 812107
Children and Family Worker: Karen Cumming Tel: 07484 090127
Pastoral Assistant: Vera Lumsden Tel 07890 865931

Session Clerk	Ms Irene Finlayson	818905
Assistant Session Clerk	Mrs. Margaret Henderson	
Worship & Discipleship	Ministry Team	Contact details above
Fellowship & Service Co-ordinator	Vacant	
Outreach Co-ordinator	Mrs. Moira Gess	
Resources Group	Mr. Jim Buchan	
Pastoral Care Group	Mrs. Mary Cameron	
Communion Elder	Mrs. Pat McLennan	815737
Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Mr. Stuart Law	
Roll Keeper	Mr. Donald Galloway	
Sunday Club Contact	Mrs. Karen Cumming	07484 090127
Beadle (Church Officer)	Mr. Gordon Mustard	
Property Conveners	Ron Smith & Ian Cameron	
Hall Keeping Team	Contact Church Office	818211
Magazine Editorial Team	email: TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com	
Organist	Mr. Stephen Pratt	833113
Church Secretary	Mrs. Janet Simpson	818211
Life and Work Convener	Mrs. Moira Ingram	812393
Flower Convener	Mrs. Pat McLennan	
Resources Group Clerk	Mrs. Irene Tewnion	
Treasurer	Mr. James Millar	498134
FWO Treasurer	Mrs. Moira Gess	
Church Office	info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk	818211

KING EDWARD CHURCH - Charity No SC015077

Session Clerk (acting)	Mrs. Margaret Brown	821316
Roll Keeper	Mrs. Nancy Simpson	01888 568602
Treasurer	Mrs. Sandra French	
Fabric Convenor	Mr. Eric Wilson	832951
Church Officer/Hall Keeper	Cliff and Jayne Pirie	821680
Organist	Mr. Stephen Pratt	833113
Flower Convener	Mrs. Isobel Smith	821348
Guild President	Anne Robson	821230
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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Adventure events – see page 13

Christmas Services – see page 20

Messy Church	Fri. 6th Dec.	5pm	Banff Church Hall
Messy Church	Fri. 7th Feb.	5pm	Banff Church Hall
Messy Church	Fri. 20th March	5pm	Banff Church Hall
Memorial Service	Sun. 12th Jan.	6.30pm	Banff Parish Church

Regular Activities

Weekly:

Tots and Teas	Tuesday	10-11.30am	Banff Church Hall
	Wednesday	1.15-2.45pm	Banff Church Hall
KidZone	Wednesday	3-4.15pm	Banff Church Hall
Open Door @ Kirk Café	Thursday	2-4pm	Banff Church Hall
Midweek Service	1st Wednesday	2.15pm	Doo'cot View
Banff Kirk Session	1st Wednesday	7pm	Banff Church Hall
Evening Service	1st and 3rd Sunday	6pm	Banff Church Hall
Friendship Group	1st & 3rd Tuesday	7pm	Banff Church Hall
Midweek Service	2nd Tuesday	3pm	Airlie Gardens
F.I.T.T.	2nd & 4th Tuesday	7pm	The Manse
Midweek Service	4th Tuesday	2.30pm	Banff Care Home
Book Club	Last Thurs. of month	2.30pm	Banff Church Hall
Busy Hands	Last Sat. of month	10am	Banff Church Hall

Some of our regular activities take occasional breaks. For up-to-date information please check Facebook or the weekly bulletins.