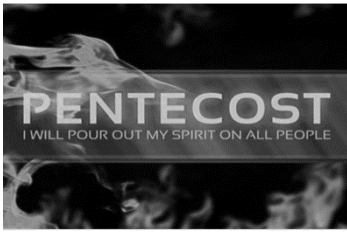


The Bridge

June/July/August 2020



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



[Jesus said] you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses...to the ends of the earth.’ [Acts 1:8] “In the last days,” God says, “I will pour out my Spirit on all

people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams...And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”...The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, all whom the Lord our God will call.’[Acts 2:17, 21 and 39]

Dear Friends, what a different world we live in from the last Bridge! We were looking forward to Easter, and then the virus changed our lives. But the good news in amidst everything is that the Spirit of Jesus is here to help us in real down to earth ways, wherever people are open to let him in. As Romans 8:26 says, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Some of you may have found the last months very hard; others may be starting to feel the pressures increasing – I am hearing comments that all around, it does not get easier being cooped up, and in my ‘thoughts for the day’ in past weeks on Deveron FM, I have pointed to little steps we can take to ease pressures. But today it being the time of Pentecost, the coming closer of God’s Holy Spirit for all people, let me emphasise one big step we can all take; opening up and letting God’s Spirit guide us and take our groans to God; pass your worries to him, and trust He cares; open up and let [more of] His Spirit in to help.

Spirit is vital one way or another. There has been much talk about community spirit being positive over these past months especially through the clap for carers and people volunteering to help others in great numbers. I hope our church has helped. In this Bridge, we highlight how we have been doing our best to show the reality of God’s care for our community, especially in terms of trying to help maintain community morale and spirit. An example is how we have been sending out support and thank you cards to ordinary stalwarts of our community not always praised as key workers. The feedback from these has been very encouraging including from the National Farmers Union North East Scotland. And the Chief Executive of Aberdeenshire Council who said *“Supporting all across our community is a team effort, so I much reciprocate with my thanks for your leadership and support for your constituents.”*

Others have emphasised the inspiring example our local churches have shown in working together these past months and in our online services. Spirit is something we in church can offer, especially around this time of Pentecost. It doesn't mean we don't have problems or get stressed but we have a release mechanism if you like, and a source of help, care and spirit.

For me it has been an exhausting period, and we like other families at times feel the stress a bit so we are taking some holiday time in the second half of June, before Vera leaves,...in Costa Banff! Vera will lead the online church service on Sunday 28th, her last Sunday with us. Sadly we will not be able to mark properly Vera's and Karen's departures because of the lockdown; but we hope to have a special service later in the year so we can better say our farewells and thanks.

You will find inside tributes to them. Vera for nearly 7 years, has been a great help to our churches in many different ways, leading services and pastoral care; singing, helping children and so much more as a really special colleague of great talent, kindness and faith. She has always done far more than required. Karen also worked willingly and hard for us and showed a great aptitude for befriending and supporting children and their parents, and caring for people of all ages. Both of them created such positive atmospheres; we will miss them greatly.

Partly because of finances, and their unique talents, we will probably not for some time find immediate or direct replacements for Vera or Karen. The way forward for church reopening also remains unclear. There is talk of some partial reopening in a while, but we have yet to see details and the restrictions imposed may mean it's some months yet before we can get back to 'normality'. Moreover, the Pentecost sermon by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland emphasised all our churches must be ready to open up to new ways forward and leave some things behind, just like our forebearers. But also we would want to hold on to all that is central to church; so we need to use what means we have to open up to God's Spirit to help us keep going with vision for the future, and care and energy for today.

Please pray for your church and all working away to show God's care, and secure our future. And know you are in the prayers of others in your church. If anyone is finding it all too difficult, please do pick up the phone and phone me or a church leader.

Yours faithfully, *David*

Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

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Friendship Group

Pat McLennan

Well, folks we are living through some challenging times and missing our get togethers at the Friendship group. There is obviously great uncertainty when we will be able to meet again, but I am sure like a lot of friendships we all have, we will just be able to pick up where we left off.

A while back I shared with the Group a conversation I had with someone I met whilst shopping, they said there was not a lot of things to go out to and mix with people and of course I suggested they come along to the Friendship Group and make new friends. I have to say this was quite a negative person I was talking to, who immediately said that they wouldn't make any friends if they only saw them a couple of times a month because you see your real friends all the time. I was really surprised by her idea of friendship. I pointed out that my oldest friend I have had since we were three and four (which I confess is well over sixty years), we drift in and out of each other's lives (I was even her bridesmaid). We rarely see each other nowadays and only keep in touch at Christmas but when we do see each other the bond is still as strong as when we were little. As I said to this lady we all drift in and out of each other's lives but friendship doesn't die just because you don't see someone (Jesus is a prime example of this). We all make friends at different times in our lives, at school, at work, when we socialise at different things and even at church, some people we are closer to than others but we can all still be "friends".

Despite telling her all that happens at Friendship Group (well maybe not all!) I failed to persuade her to come along but this is a work in progress and I hope I maybe planted a seed. If you or if you know of anyone who you think might like to come along please invite them and either bring them along or meet them at the hall door so that they can be made welcome.

In September we certainly had our childhood memories brought back to us when we visited the Toy Museum on Seafield Street. In October we had a really interesting talk by one of our members Olive Bligdon who told us how she copes with her loss of sight. She is an inspiration to us all with her resourcefulness. Our next meeting was the obligatory Beetle Drive which the "children/young at heart" of the Friendship Group all enjoy.

In November Janet had us all making decorations for the Church Christmas tree as well as our own trees. Our second meeting in November was a talk from the folk at Deveron Water Lilies, and as usual we had an excellent Christmas meal at the Town & County in December.

We had a Scottish Night in January with a combination of poems, quizzes, some Scottish themed food courtesy of Maureen and her daughter and we finished off with a sing-along of Scottish songs with Stephen Pratt.

February started with some "gentle" exercises, our speaker was unfortunately not able to come so we resorted to using a clip from the internet, on the plus side we just switched it off when we had had enough!

We then had Andy Taylor with photos of old Banff and he also included some photos of some church groups from the past, needless to say again there were plenty memories stirred up.

Our last meeting in March took the form of a Call My Bluff, this was the second one we have had and I think everyone would agree they are great fun.

Folks, that brings us back to the great unknown, as you see we have a good time, plenty of fun and friendship, not forgetting the excellent suppers/snacks we have courtesy of Maureen Kaczmarek. We realise we cannot plan too far ahead so until we get "government permission" to meet again, we will just have to wait. Fortunately we would be on our "summer break" just now anyway.

Any suggestions of what we could have/do at our meetings would be greatly appreciated, so please give it some thought. In the meantime let's all be there for each other during these trying times and I hope to see old and new friends in the not too distant future.



'Son'flower Seeds of Hope

BANFF WILL BE BLOOMING HOPE THIS SUMMER



Did you receive your 'Son'flower seeds?

Seeds were sent to all members and friends of our church to plant and place them where they can be seen by anyone walking past. We hope that spotting the sunflowers around the town will not only bring a smile to people's faces but also remind them that God's Son, Jesus, can be in our midst helping us find hope and new life together as we slowly, hopefully, emerge from lockdown.

Rev. David Locke said "Jesus, as the Son of God and of 'Man', got out and about helping ordinary people in real practical ways, and encouraged His followers to do likewise and love our neighbours. We've been really encouraged by all the people in Banff and beyond that have done just that over the last few weeks, whether it's by getting a neighbour some shopping, phoning or just by sending a friendly smile across the street. This 'Son'flower project is one way the church can say thank you to everyone who has risen to the challenges of the last few weeks and reached out to help and care for others. They may add to the beauty of our town, and at the same time encourage us all to keep shining out to each other in the weeks to come."

The seeds are different varieties of sunflowers which will produce a variety of heights, colours and shapes. The church hopes people might send up a prayer or smile of thanks, hope and care for our neighbours to the Son whenever they see one of his 'Son'flowers!

We are so grateful for all the donations we received in support of this project, and also to all the volunteers who helped with distributing the seeds. Thank you very much.

Please contact the church office (01261 818211) if you would like seeds – we still have a few left!

Many of our younger – and older! – people are enjoying planting and looking after their sunflower seeds



Our churches are open!

When everything shut down almost overnight in March, it was easy to feel disheartened about how little we could do. In fact parts of our church have been busier than ever trying to meet in new ways the growing social and spiritual needs in our congregation and community. The following article, continued throughout this magazine, was previously published in an abbreviated form in the Banffshire Journal. It provides a snapshot of just some of the activities we have been involved in, proving perhaps that 'being Church' is far from just having access to a particular building – as our old children's hymn says; the church is wherever God's people are praising, helping, sharing. The central Church of Scotland indeed suggests we are all probably learning vital 'lessons from lockdown' about what in church really matters, and pointers for the way ahead.

Part 1: How our church is Caring for the Isolated

Many people may be feeling the stresses of the current situation, and not just those who do not have internet or social networking skills. Some who feel isolated or cooped up can become stressed or depressed, and can value some outside human contact to brighten up their day, and know that someone out there cares and they are not alone. Banff and King Edward Parish Churches have made strenuous efforts to do something to help.

Flyers have been distributed, offering services such as shopping, mail contact, telephone calls, prayer, etc....and inviting people to offer their services to others. Our Pastoral Assistant Vera Lumsden has contacted people by email and phone, and set up telephone networks of people to talk to each other and anyone needing a listening ear. Church Elders too have been contacting members in their district by telephone, phone, email, post or other means. Letters from the Minister are either emailed or printed by the church secretary and are delivered, emailed or posted by Elders or other church leaders. The Banff Church Pastoral Care group have also been very active phoning and delivering cards or notes. Where it is safe, some flowers have been delivered.

We have led various funerals, which have been difficult for all involved, so there has been much exploration of how to adapt most helpfully. Elsewhere, some light relief has also been provided by distributing a Word Game Challenge. The church has also offered help to the wider community through the council hub for co-ordinating all those who are seeking to help under this virus situation. Another group of volunteers have offered specific prayer support when requested and this has provided real comfort to some whose relatives are sick at this time, or families worried about jobs or finances.

Continued on page 11.

John Bell Church Singing Event

It was a privilege for Banff Parish Church to host a weekend event with Rev Dr John Bell in mid-March. John is a Church of Scotland Minister, internationally known for his hymn writing, leading of church praise, and his focus on renewing congregational worship. He is a past convener of the Church of Scotland's Panel on Worship and of our main hymn book, CH4. He is a frequent broadcaster, and contributes to Radio 4 "Thought for the Day."

The workshops were appreciated by all who attended; we were amazed at how quickly and effectively John got us singing all sorts, from familiar tunes with new words, to new tunes with old words, in canon and even in parts! The little stories he dropped in along the way helped the time fly by and included some useful tips on how to encourage and support even those who consider themselves non-singers. Thank you to those who helped with the much-needed refreshments!

We were also glad to hold a joint Sunday service with King Edward at which John preached. Again he used this time to show us really how easy it is to be creative with straightforward music, and what a fantastic way it can be of helping everyone to participate in worship. Some of the ideas he shared included:

- All sitting together at the front has an amazing impact on helping our singing;
- Teaching the simple steps of a song at the start of the service, to be sung later;
- A visible lead at the front helps greatly;
- Singing sometimes with no instrumental accompaniment, or with piano;
- Sometimes, have men only, and/or women only, sing verses of a hymn;
- Sometimes have the choir and the congregation singing alternate verses;
- Simple folk tunes have always been a help to congregational singing.

His key message was that we all can use our voices to praise God, who cares more about our hearts than our sound purity. John himself was told at school he could not sing, and about a third of people present admitted something similar; yet John emphasised, we all can. Our task is to appreciate and encourage use of what we have, and maybe take simple steps to help us all sing together.

Lockdown has prohibited this, but we look forward to recapturing some of his enthusiasm and ideas, when we are able once again to gather in church.

Psalm 100 says make a joyful noise unto the Lord [KJV] so let's look forward once again to raising the roof and sing out to Banff and King Edward: "God is Good, we sing and shout it; God is Good" (Graham Kendrick) and in the meantime, keep singing wherever you are!



News from King Edward

Margaret Brown

Following the continued lockdown period and no end in sight to us getting back to normal Jayne Pirie has asked me to let everyone know that the Cream Tea on the 7th of June and the Strawberry Fair on the 4th of July have both been cancelled.

Both the Hall and Church will remain closed until further notice but if anyone wishes access to the Church for a quiet time of solace and prayer please get in touch with Cliff on 821680 or myself on 821316 and we can arrange for the Church to be opened at a pre arranged time as soon as we are allowed. The letters from David and the contact from your Elders will help ease the isolation some of you may be feeling but visiting the Church may be just as important. The old hymn "Just a closer walk with thee" comes to mind.

Our thanks must go to Cliff and Jayne who are sharing the job of Hall Keeper/Church Officer while the position remains vacant. They have been very busy deep cleaning the Hall and Church ready for re-opening. This extra work is in addition to Jayne working extra hours nursing on the front line. They both work very hard for this community and we must all thank them sincerely.

I look forward to the Sunday we can all meet again at King Edward Church but until then keep well and safe.

Yarn Christmas Tree Project



Some of our Busy Hands ladies have been using their 'lockdown' time knitting and crocheting squares for the Christmas tree. The tree will be made up of 12 x 12cm squares in bright colours with Christian symbols being added to some of the squares.



We would love to have as many people adding a square as possible – whether you make 1, 10 or 100 squares each will be featured in the tree. It would be great if you could make one square...or more!

For full details contact Roseanna on 833329 or Janet on 818211.



Our Fascinating, Fun and Faithful Facebook Family

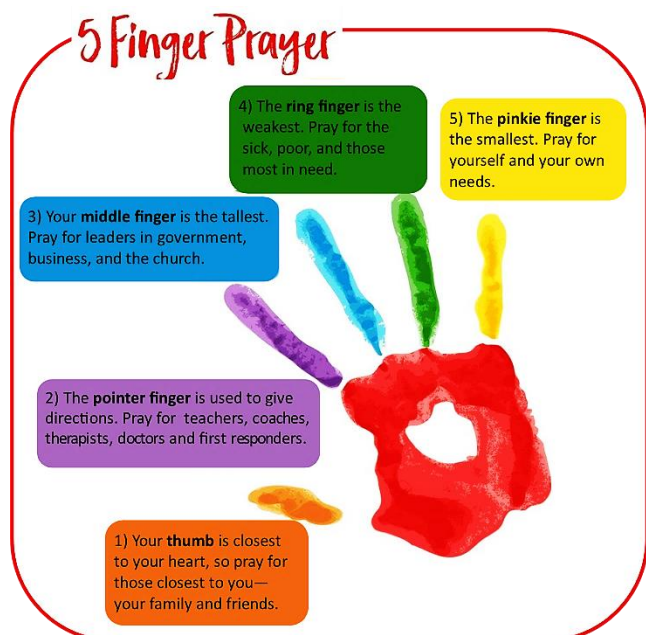
With church doors closed, Facebook has been a main means of communicating with our congregation and wider community. Here we bring you some highlights of the past few weeks, with services viewed typically by over 600 people

Comments on services

Thank you, very powerful and comforting service.

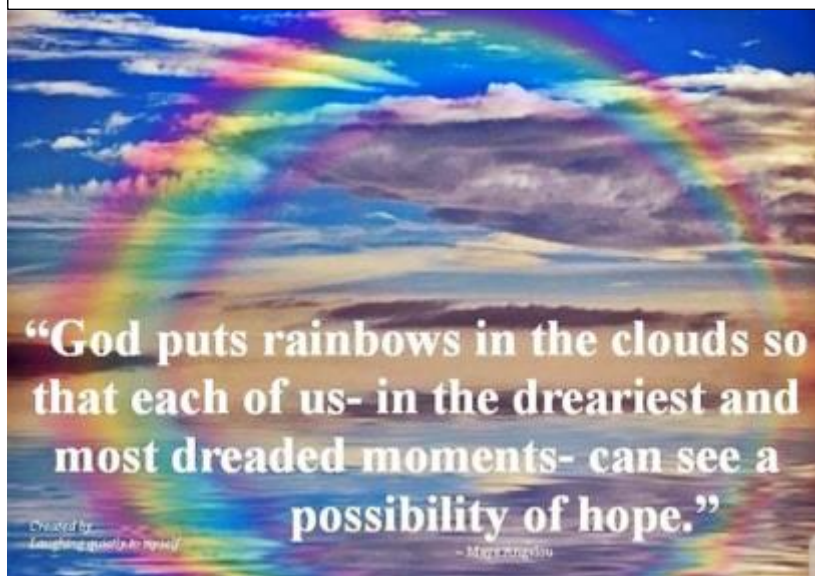
Thank you so much for a wonderful service x
Enjoyed the Sunday Service very much – the readings, the prayers, the music and the words. Thank you.

Thank you! Encouraging and uplifting service.



707 reached, 52 engagements

Posted by a church member.
94 reactions , 931 reached.



Beautiful picture of an eagle protecting her young. Turn it upside down n see who is protecting us in every way! 🙏

Did you know...?

You don't have to be a member of Facebook to see what's there! If you want to see what's going on, but don't want to sign up, just type 'Banff and King Edward Parish Churches Facebook' into your search engine and you should be able to find us and have a look.

Part 2: How the Church is using Technology

Continued from page 7.

Like many organisations, local churches have had to adapt by using technology as a means of communication. For us, short church services and thoughts for the day are available each week online by Facebook, website and some are also broadcast regularly by Deveron FM radio, along with other churches. These are all very time consuming and challenging to produce but public response has been very encouraging and we are reaching a much wider audience. Services are also copied onto CDs and distributed upon request.

The church has followed others in making widespread use of videoconferencing to hold meetings in order to discuss and keep abreast of developments and make decisions about practical issues day by day under the virus. Issues like maintenance of buildings, caring for and safeguarding staff and volunteers, finance, communications, children's and family work, planning all have to be dealt with. Without physical meetings, the volume of emails also seems to have multiplied even more than ever!

The Church Secretary and Communications Group have been particularly active in using the churches' Facebook page to help people, with daily inspirational messages, including a number of humorous ones; video links to hymns and other music are also regularly posted along with ideas to keep children and families amused. Our website offers longer term resources for support, prayer and encouragement and there are links and other posts there to reach our church family and the community. We know from feedback that these changes in how we communicate are having a positive impact on many: our own congregation but also others who may not normally look to the church but are searching for a little more support at this time.

As with many organisations, many churches are struggling financially with a decline in revenue due to church doors being closed. Banff Parish Church's Finance Team is pursuing different ways to address this – from funding applications, to adding a donation button on the website and facebook page or encouraging existing cash donors to send in their donations by cheque.

Continued on page 19.



Banff & King Edward
Parish Churches
Facebook Services
SUNDAY 31st May

Join us for two special church services for Pentecost Sunday, 31st May. Pentecost is the time marking how God's Holy Spirit comes close to lift up and guide all people open to it. Both our special services will include worship, talks, prayer and music to inspire us.

From 9am a 35 min service
O'Brien, Rev David

From 3pm a 38 min service
Rev Martin Fair, the
of the Church of Scotland

THREE MINUTE
THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Many thanks to Tom McLennan for sending in the following poem. Tom says:
"I had an ex-colleague from up North in touch with me regarding the following poem which he discovered during a relative's house clearance. At the end of it are the initials A.C. Due to creases in the paper there are words missing and perhaps wrongly interpreted. My colleague would love to know more about the background behind the poem and its origin...it may be of interest to many of our congregation, some of whom are originally from a farming background!"

Please do get in touch if you know anything about the origins of this lovely poem.

The Deserted Smiddy

The smiddy is deserted noo
The smith is gane awa'
Nae mair we'll hear the smiddy ring
Nor hear the bellows blaw
The sheen are doon frae aff the wa's
The hearth b' cauld and bare
The ploos an' harrows roon the door
We'll never see them mair

On sunny days the fairmer cheils
Rankit oot a chine or twa
Syne tae the smiddy they wad gang
Tae while the oors awa'
A newsinboot the work an' beasts
The neeps and corn an strae
Bit when the winter comes aince mair
Nae smiddy they will hae

On simmer nichts the plooman loons
Aft gaed the smith a ca'
Sometimes a tin or twa
O' gas – when darker evenines cam'
Bit files it wis a dodge
For there wis aye a chance tae meet
The lassie fae the 'Lodge'

An ilka day at denner time
The loons caim fae the skweel

They'd stan'an' watch the smith at
work
An aftir they got dreel
For bikin.....
An lessons were begun
For loons ne'er think aboot the
skweel
As lang as they get fun

An ilka day the Postie came
Wi' letters frae the toon
He'd sit beside the smiddy fire
An' crack we a' aroon
Bit noo the herth is cauld an' bare
We dinna hear a soun
The ringin bed is oot o' sicht
The girss is ower it's croon

Nae faur awa the shoppie sma
Lang sair't Bogmuchals need
Bit noo the shoppie is awa
An Lizzie, she is deid
The berry busses in the yard
Are a' that's tae the fore
An' scattered are the bairns wha
played
Roon shop, an' smiddy door

- A.C.

On a personal note.....

(Notes from the diary of the Pastoral Assistant.)



It's been 40 years since I first started working in one church or another, sometimes voluntarily and sometimes being paid. I've been grateful for all the opportunities I've been given over the years, the people I've met and the things I've learned.

During my time at Banff & King Edward I've also greatly appreciated all the love and support I've been shown, and the fun and laughter shared.

It's been a privilege to come alongside many of you during sad times as well as happy times, to share prayers together, sometimes with tears of joy or sorrow, often being entrusted with confidences you've kept privately to yourself for many years. Thank you for trusting me.

Now, I feel the need to slow down and give more time and attention to my husband, who retired last year. Part of me feels very sad to be leaving you when I finish at the end of June. May God lead us all into the "new normal" He has for us.

As you know, I love to sing, so you may be expecting me to leave you, singing the song from my namesake, Vera Lynn, "We'll Meet Again, Don't Know Where, Don't Know When", but I prefer to leave you, singing "God Be With You, Til We Meet Again". Keep trusting Jesus, and we will.

With love and blessings to you all,

Vera. x

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.

Purpose-built – but then?

Alistair Mason

Buildings last, and they sometimes outlast their purpose. If you look closely at historic maps of the Scottish countryside, you will see that every watercourse in the land had a string of mills along it. Nowadays a watermill is a charming antique, and people will pay extra to live in houses that once were mills.

We live in a time when some of the grandest purpose-built structures in Banff seem not to be needed for the purpose they were built for – and I don't mean the churches. In Victorian Banff, and even later, it was taken for granted that if you were going to put your money in a bank, then the bank should look as if it were rich and respectable, and there to stay. The very thought that you might be grateful to have a van parked in the carpark once a week as your local bank would have shocked our ancestors. It shocks me, but that's merely showing my age.

We started having banks in Banff in the late 18th century. Elgin was earlier. On the High Street of Elgin you can still see Braco's Banking House of 1694, where the Duffs made the money that built Duff House, and earned a duchy and a Princess Royal. When Admiral Gordon retired to Banff in 1750, he brought his private secretary with him, James Imlach, who was the first bank manager in Banff.



On the right the first bank in Banff, as rebuilt 1840

By the time Queen Victoria came to the throne there were three rival banks, all on Low Street, because that was where the market was held. There was the Imlachs' Aberdeen Town and County Bank, on the opposite side of the road the North of Scotland Bank, and down from it the Union Bank, which was rebuilt at the end of the reign as the Bank of Scotland. The greatest Victorian bank in Banff was built on High Shore in 1869, the Commercial Bank, which we know as the grandest police station in the north of Scotland. Bank vaults make ideal lock-ups. Even as late as 1937, when the High Street at last got a bank, the National Commercial, a bank had to be something grand. The interior of that bank, the old Royal Bank of Scotland, is truly magnificent.

And we have seen them go. Only the Bank of Scotland is left. How one hopes that good uses will be found for old banks.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

Hebrews 13:8

Ruth Spink

We are living in strange, and changing, times. Thinking back, life has been full of changes: some good and some bad, but through them all God’s constant presence has helped me. He has promised never to leave us: Matt 28:20 Jesus said “I am with you always to the very end of the age.” Isaiah 43:5 “Do not be afraid, for I am with you” and v3 “When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Not only is He with us but he never changes, our God is constant: Mal. 3:6 “I am the Lord, I change not.”

I love the chorus: Yesterday, today for ever, Jesus is the same. All may change but Jesus never, glory to his name (MP 787).

Throughout our lives, whatever our circumstances we need to abide in His love and try, like Paul to “be content” (Phil. 4:11b).

This hymn by Anna Waring (MP 331) sums it up:

In heavenly love abiding,
no change my heart shall fear:
and safe is such confiding,
for nothing changes here:
the storm may roar without me,
my heart may low be laid;
but God is round about me,
and can I be dismayed?

Green pastures are before me,
which yet I have not seen;
bright skies will soon be o’er me
where the dark clouds have been.
My hope I cannot measure,
my path to life is free,
My Saviour has my treasure,
and He will walk with me.

Wherever he may guide me
no want shall turn me back;
my Shepherd is beside me
and nothing can I lack:
His wisdom ever waketh,
His sight is never dim;
He knows the way He taketh,
and I will walk with Him.



May God give us strength, as we walk with Him.

So Long, Farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu...

It is with very mixed feelings – sad for us, but happy for them – that we must accept that Vera [Lumsden] and Karen [Cumming] are moving on to the next stage of their lives. Vera has served us so faithfully and caringly for nearly 7 years as Pastoral Assistant to both our churches, while Karen likewise has worked as Banff's Children and Families Worker for some 2 and half years, while continuing with other voluntary activities for us. Here Irene Finlayson, Maureen Forsyth and Sheila Smith look back on some of the things that have made their time with us so memorable...



I was so saddened on hearing of Vera's resignation and could not let another day go by without saying what a huge difference she has made to the life of Banff and King Edward Parish Churches, and to the wider community. Her presence will be greatly missed.

Vera has put so much hard work and effort into our churches: quietly, behind the scenes, without any fuss; always remaining positive in her approach and being diplomatic to the end, no matter what the circumstances. Her cheerful disposition and smile have always been there for all, with words of comfort and optimism.

The thought and preparation Vera puts into her Sunday services has been evident in the way everything is linked together with a central theme enhanced by audience and children's participation. Her voice, too, has been an inspiration for us all in leading the singing of modern and traditional hymns.

Vera conducts funerals with the utmost dignity, showing enormous respect and consideration for bereaved families through her research into the life of the deceased. This compassion and empathy is also evident in her pastoral visits which have been appreciated by so many.

Vera's wonderful work with KidZone has been enjoyed by many of us in Sunday services when, thanks to her encouragement and patience, the children had the confidence to enjoy singing and participating in front of an audience. This small step made such a huge difference to them. Equally, her work with Primary Schools, Guides and Brownies was so much valued and evidenced at Remembrance Services when the whole community came together.

Vera has been a tremendous support for the Reverend David Locke in helping see to the needs of his two parishes, Banff and King Edward. She has risen to this challenge admirably, showing enormous capabilities and strength of character in carrying out her responsibilities.

We wish Vera and her family the very best of health, happiness and success as she goes forward in her spiritual and life-long journey.



It is with sadness that, as of the beginning of July, we must also say goodbye to Karen Cumming, as our Children and Family Worker. Karen has been successful in gaining new, permanent, employment at Aberchirder Primary School's nursery provision where we are sure she will be a huge asset. Her new post also offers her the chance of valuable nursery qualifications and all in all is her dream job

continuing her work with children and families.

We have been fortunate to have Karen as our Children and Family Worker and her kind, caring and hardworking attitude has always shone through in everything she does. She created a safe, friendly and happy environment for the families coming along to her sessions. She was always very welcoming to any volunteers who came to help. She has made huge strides in introducing children and families to our Church, including families not only from Banff but from Whitehills, Aberchirder and even Fyvie. She will be a huge miss but intends to carry on with our Sunday Club and with other connections she has with the Church, including Messy Church. We wish her all good luck and best wishes in her new career where we are sure she will be a huge success.

Thank you both Vera and Karen for all you have done to help and inspire people of our church and community; we pray for God's continuing blessing on you both and on all you do.

The Origin of Nursery Rhymes

Joyce Millar

It would appear that a positive side of lockdown is that many of us have started new hobbies or embarked on different exercise programmes. Others may be learning a new language or how to bake the perfect cake. One day when I was doing none of the above I remembered the rhyme “Ring a Ring O’ Roses” in relation to another time of pandemic (or epidemic).

***Ring a Ring O’ Roses, A pocketful of posies,
Atishoo! Atishoo! We all fall down!***

This is thought to refer to the Great Plague of 1665. One of the first signs of the plague was a ring of rose-coloured spots, and the protection against this terrible disease was, in popular belief, a posy of herbs. Sneezing was taken as a sure sign that you were about to die of it, and the last line “We all fall down” omits the word, “dead”!

I began to wonder about the origin of other rhymes. I remembered teaching a history lesson using “Old Mother Hubbard.”

***Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard
To get her poor doggie a bone,
When she got there the cupboard was bare
So the poor little doggie had none.***

This rhyme allegedly refers to Cardinal Thomas Wolsey and his unsuccessful attempt to get an annulment for King Henry VIII. Old Mother Hubbard is Cardinal Wolsey. The cupboard is the Catholic Church. The doggie is Henry VIII. The bone is the annulment Henry wanted in order to end his marriage to Katherine of Aragon.

I finish with one of my grandchildren’s favourites

***Baa, Baa black Sheep, Have you any Wool?
Yes sir, yes sir, Three Bags full,
One for my master, One for my Dame,
One for the little Boy That lives down the lane***

This one is all about taxation! In the 13th Century King Edward I needed to raise taxes to pay for wars etc. (especially against those rebellious Scots!). Farmers had to pay the tax in wool: one third to the King (the master), one third to the local nobleman (the Dame). The remaining third was left to the farmer himself who is that little boy in the rhyme.

Whether or not these supposed origins are correct I think this is a great way to learn some history! I wonder if we could write a rhyme using “Stay at Home, Protect the NHS, Save lives”?

Part 3: How church is supporting families and wider community

Continued from page 11.

Young families can equally feel isolated, and Facebook is not just a way of reaching people spiritually but provides wider support including chat, care and listening opportunities, ideas, and humour, as seen in the hundreds who watched the coronavirus brush dance which really cheered folk up.



Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

Coronavirus has closed our doors.

but

**WE ARE STILL
HERE FOR YOU**



If you need help, support, prayer someone to have a chat to please get in touch and we will try to help.

Our Children and Family Worker Group especially worked hard to support young families at home in this and other ways. The church has provided children's activity kits and music items and other play material on our Facebook and website; and explored other means of support as well. Karen, our Children and Family Worker, has been spending much of her time offering support by a listening ear and being in touch with

families we know of. She tried to continue to meet those formerly involved in the church groups and clubs by phone, email and other social media.

Banff church is lit blue at night (see front cover) to show our support for the NHS, and Banff and King Edward churches sent out many cards and emails to show our appreciation to unsung stalwarts of the community serving us at their own risk. These measures are all part of bringing the church to the community as an active and meaningful support at this time. Banff church used its logo '**sharing, caring, giving – faith in the community**'; while the King Edward logo '**sowing seeds of hope**' was also used. These represent what the church wants to be doing in practice in sharing our faith in Jesus practically for our congregations and community for now and the future.

Many of our members are also active in community organisations, for example Banff joint Session Clerk Irene Finlayson is chair of the local Rotary Club and the Minister is treasurer of the Community Council; these organisations continue to be active and the church through all its people being active good neighbours, is determined to help our community get through this situation positively and with hope, and is embracing modern means of technology to do so. The Minister has also spent much time exploring what more can be done, with other community, council and church organisations.

We will have failed in much over these past months and if we have not given someone the support they deserve we are truly sorry; all we can say is we have tried our best, in very difficult circumstances, and you are all in our prayers.



UPDATE FOR FAITH GROUPS FROM CHAPLAINCY DEPARTMENT IN THE MIDST OF COVID 19

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the work of NHS Grampian Chaplaincy department during the current pandemic. When I wrote to you two months ago we were anticipating a peak of activity that could have put NHS Grampian under severe strain. Mercifully that peak did not happen. Thank you for matching your prayers with action and observing all the advice issued by the Scottish Government and NHS Grampian, which I have no doubt contributed to there not being a peak.

What we are now expecting is smaller waves of activity, which although better in terms of coping mean it could all be much more drawn out. We can all be forgiven for likening this experience to that of Noah stuck in the Ark for a very significant period of time, how very appropriate then is the Rainbow symbol!

The Healthcare Chaplaincy Team continue to function as a physical presence throughout the main healthcare sites across Grampian. Please continue to pray that my team all keep safe and healthy. Our support for patients has a particular focus on end of life care at present, however we will respond to all referrals for patient support, whether in Acute, Mental Health or other settings.

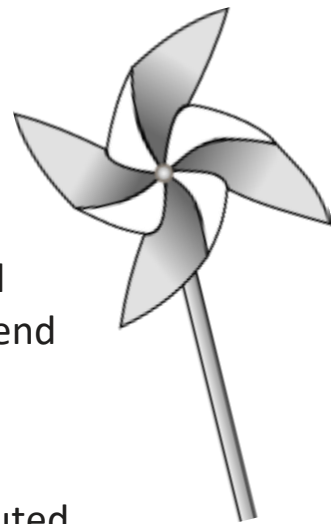
A very particular form of support that my team have facilitated in recent weeks are end of life “farewell” visits for relatives, typically in Intensive Care Units. As a team we are now also present for a number of hours most days in the Emergency Department, which is an innovation for us. This is multi-layered in its reach, as we are able to offer support to staff working there, but also to patients being admitted and potentially to relatives, but the contact for relatives has to be done virtually.

With Best Wishes

Mark Rodgers, Lead Chaplain, on behalf of NHS Grampian Chaplaincy Team.
20th May, 2020

Pentecost Windmills

Pentecost, which this year fall on 31st May, is such a special time for the church: a time when we celebrate and remember the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' early disciples. The Holy Spirit is the 'special helper' Jesus promised he would send after his ascension to heaven; a helper and friend that, if we ask, can be with us at all times and help us in our journey with Jesus.



Following the great response to the 'Son'flower seeds distributed around our community, the Children and Families Group made the decision to send all the families connected to our church and for whom we have contact details a pack with information about Pentecost and a windmill to make to remind them of the story of Pentecost. Children are invited to read the story with their parents then decorate and make a windmill and place it in their window where it can be seen by passers-by.



Please do look out for these windmills when you are out and about around Banff and if you see one, give a cheery wave; you never know who might be watching from inside! It would be great if we can use this time to show our children and families how much we value and welcome them.

We once again received donations in support of this project to cover costs, for which we are extremely grateful. Thank you very much.

*The deadline for the
September/October/November issue of the Bridge
is 5pm on Thursday 20th August. Please send your
contributions to
TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com*

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.

- Mr Tom Leece, Banff.**
- Mrs Jean Elrick, Banff .**
- Mrs Elma Strachan, Banff.**
- Mrs Barbara Boddie, Macduff.**
- Mr William Mair, Banff.**
- Mr Alex Barron, Banff.**
- Mrs Jean Kinghorn, Banff.**
- Mrs Williamina Mitchell, 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.”

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Ministry of Flowers

The flower team are so sorry that we cannot distribute flowers just now, but please rest assured we are still thinking of you all and pray that we will be able to resume "normal" life in the not too distant future.



**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

|                                   |                                                                                                    |                       |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Joint Session Clerk               | Ms Irene Finlayson                                                                                 | 818905                |
| Joint 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: <a href="mailto:TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com">TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com</a>                    |                       |
| 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                     | <a href="mailto:info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk">info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk</a> | 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**

The Minister will be on Annual Leave between 15th and 29th June. If you have any need during this time please contact either the Pastoral Assistant, Vera Lumsden, or the Church Secretary, Janet Simpson. Contact details can be found on page 23.

### **Coming Soon!**

Could **YOU** walk a Marathon in a Month? We're hoping to launch this church fundraiser soon. Look out for more information over the next few weeks.

### **Seeds of Hope...**

As our 'Son'flower seeds grow we hope they will prove another way of drawing our community closer together. Please do look out for sunflowers when you are out and about, maybe pray for the people living there, but also look for tips on how the growth of the flowers can help us grow in spirit and in faith. We'd love to hear your ideas!

## **Regular Activities**

Our Regular Activities have had to stop for the moment but we hope to be able to meet together again soon. However the church is very much open for business. Look out on Facebook, the website or in David's letters to the congregation for services, stories and children's activities as well as information about upcoming events and other resources.

We are encouraging our regular groups to meet either virtually or via conference calling (which can be done with one mobile phone and up to five landlines) if they choose to. If you'd like to know more please get in touch with the group leader who should be able either to help or to pass you on to someone who can.

### **Our Sunday Services are still running!**

Each week our Ministry Team are recording a 30 minute service. Anyone can listen via Facebook – you don't have to be a member or signed up, just search for 'Banff and King Edward Churches Facebook' and click on the link – or via the Resources page of our website – [www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk/Resources](http://www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk/Resources)

Services are also broadcast on Deveron FM, alternating between Banff and King Edward Parish Churches, River Church Banff and Macduff Parish Church.

If you can't access any of these, our CD Ministry is still running. Please contact your Elder if you would like a copy of the weekly CD.

In addition, short '**Thoughts for the Day**' are broadcast by Deveron FM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, delivered in turn by our local churches. Those by David on Tuesdays are again available after broadcast on our Facebook page and website.