

The Bridge

June/July/August 2021



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

Dear Friends,

I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him. For the Lord is your life, and he will give you many years in the land he swore to give to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

(Deuteronomy 30;19-20)

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.’ (Joshua 1;9)

‘these things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. (John 20 v 31)

The above words mean a lot to me and I hope can help you in times to come. The first set are words I give pupils moving up to secondary school; that we all face choices and our choices have consequences. But if we choose to **listen to God and his guidance** we and our community can know real blessing in the way our forebears knew. The second set are words Moses passed onto Joshua who passed them on to his people as they moved forward to cross the great river Jordan into a new land. **Do not be afraid; God goes with you if you let him.**

They are words I also pass to P7s, and which I read to the congregation of Stronsay church last Sunday. I showed them my grandfather’s New Testament which he took with him to France in WWI which carried those words of assurance; and I explained how I also gave that very bible to a soldier and a sailor going off to war at different times, and how they found reassurance from it. In my service at Stronsay there was a newcomer to church, a former soldier, who said he found those words strangely helpful.

Let them help you as well in days to come, especially the last words, from John’s gospel; **Jesus is the one who can offer us a fuller life**, life lived to the full. Accept Him as your friend, your guide, your saviour. He does not always make life easy for us, and often challenges us to love God and our neighbour more, but **in the challenge of not giving up, of journeying on for the sake of others, we find that fuller life.** I pray you keep going following Him and serving his church and people in the days to come.

And so those words helped and challenged me and my family. **Marie, Isaac and I will be heading to Orkney soon.** Our last Sunday here is likely to be 4th or 11th July. I preached on Stronsay last Sunday having been invited there as the sole nominee of the church’s nominations committee; and the congregation unanimously asked me to become their minister. We accepted!



It was something Marie and I had been exploring and realised it is God's will we go there. It's a step into the unknown for us, but we go trusting in Jesus and that he will journey with us, as He will with you, if we are open to his promptings.

Stroma is a small island and Presbytery may in due course give me additional responsibilities. Farming is important, so I hope I will remember some things King Edward has taught me! The people in Stroma are very nice, down to earth and friendly, but the main reason we are going is we believe God is telling us. Months ago we told you we had felt God's call to move on, and accepted that, but had no idea where; we just had to trust, and now we think we know.

I am not sure if it was meant as a sign, but it's weird that an elder from Orkney is now Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; his chaplain is a minister from Orkney; and the Lord High commissioner chose to visit Orkney this past week. The words of an Ian White hymn spoke to us powerfully;

*Though I feel afraid of territory unknown,
I know that I can say that I do not stand alone.
For Jesus you have promised your presence in my heart;
I cannot see the ending, but it's here that I must start.
What lies across the waves may cause my heart to fear;
will I survive the day, must I leave what's known and dear?
A ship that's in the harbour is still and safe from harm;
But it was not built to be there; it was made for wind and storm.
And all I know is you have called me, and that I will follow is all I can say.
I will go where you will send me... and your fire lights my way.*

It's been a very challenging year for nearly all of us. And we all face more and different challenges; that is life, and blessings have been found amidst it all and more will emerge. A ship is not built for safe harbour; we each are called to journey on, face the challenges and trust God will journey with us.

At least our two churches are now open, and maybe we can all meet more to support one another more. We have been trying to keep going with live and online services, to meet the needs of those who can and those who cannot come to church physically. Soon some congregational singing, albeit with masks, will be allowed, and also probably a chance to have a coffee and chat afterwards.

We are slowly getting back to some semblance of 'normal'; but I doubt we will get back to the ways folk remember 'normal' in the past. For in some ways the

world has changed and we have all had to adapt for better and for worse. For example zoom meetings and coffee chats in both congregations have been unexpected successes. But there are many scars from the past 15 months, the long lasting effects on people's outgoing nature for example or other mental health issues; so **let's keep encouraging each other** as we seek to get back out and about.

There is much to be positive about. For example, the plans you have developed for the future in Banff, the care you have shown each other in so many ways; the way many have worked hard and inspiringly, not least this past year adapting well to find new ways to support our wider congregation and community, including online. But it's not been easy; so well done for keeping going positively.

And I think of **the way you are cooperating with other churches**; this bodes well for the future as it seems certain that churches will have to work in radically different ways in the future – including much more together with other churches ecumenically, not duplicating each other. The next year may not be the easiest as you have to await Presbytery working out what the future plan of churches will be in this area; I pray they will move speedily, wisely and with understanding. Presbytery should hopefully appoint someone as your Interim Moderator and as your locum or weekly minister. That will surely help.

And **new ways forward will emerge**; for example, in King Edward, we are working on a team approach to replacing Margaret Brown as Session Clerk, and initial signs are that this might work. In Banff Margaret Henderson is working away hard and well in face of many challenges to lead the church forward. Please do support your church leaders in the days ahead, with encouragement, with your talents and with practical support. There is a picture later in this Bridge of Lord Kitchener saying '**your church needs you**'; that is so true; I have to hand the baton over to you all to carry our churches forward, and pray God's continuing blessings on you.

Marie and I will miss Banff and King Edward greatly and are so very grateful to you all for what you have given us especially letting us become part of your community, something we will treasure all our lives – after all, our son is a Banffer! I am sorry for any way I have not been better able to meet your own needs and expectations and not been able to support you face to face since lockdown. But there have been many good times, not least in how you helped us come together in marriage, your care for us and especially our son Isaac. We will miss you and thank you.

Sincerely,

David

Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

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Busy Hands

The ladies of our church knitting group have been very busy during these difficult times. They have crocheted and knitted blankets and tweedle muffs which were donated to Dounemount Nursing Home.

These were very much appreciated and very handy for the elderly residents.



They also donated knitted and crocheted items to the Neonatal Unit at Aberdeen Maternity Hospital. They sent blankets, cardigans, little hats, bonding squares and small covers for the babies' cannulas. They have

received several lovely thank you cards, one of which can be seen here along with the items sent.

Last but not least they knitted many of the lovely hearts distributed to our community over Easter.

We are very grateful to the ladies in the group and their friends who lovingly knit and crochet these items for the very young and the elderly.

The Bridge

March/April/May 2021



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Sadly, there is a chance that this will be the last issue of The Bridge. We are looking for a new Editor and without this, the Bridge Team will not be able to continue producing the magazine. If you or anyone you know might be willing to help, please get in touch for an informal chat (818211 or info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk)

On this day 55 years ago...

Did you know that this year marks the 55th anniversary of the first ever edition of *The Bridge*? At least, that's the story we are going with; there may have been a few issues prior to this so if you have an earlier edition, please let us know! Back then it was known as *News and Views*. Here are some snippets from the June 1966 edition; look out for more in future issues.

- The church was in vacancy and the Interim Moderator was Robert A. Montgomery from Portsoy.
- The Woman's Guild were preparing a Midsummer Fair to be held in the church hall on 17th June, including a Talent Contest!
- Three baptisms and one wedding were held in the church.
- A very interesting 'Getting to know them' article featured Mr and Mrs Andrew Taylor, who even then were both busy and valued in the church and community. One of the rare occasions Mr Taylor appears in front of the camera rather than behind one!
- There was news that the General Assembly had approved the admission of women to the eldership.
- The Jumble Sale raised £34 12/-
- St Mary's took the wooden spoon in the Banff, Macduff, Cornhill and Portsoy Indoor Bowling League.
- Offerings were up by more than £70 in May 1966 compared to May 1965.



...and there were more than 5000 applicants for 28 jobs...on Shackleton's Antarctic expedition in 1914! The advert read

Men wanted for hazardous journey.
Small wages, bitter cold, long months
of complete darkness, constant
danger, safe return doubtful...

Perhaps we should try something like that when advertising jobs in Banff and King Edward!

More Stories from Stuart...

Stuart Law

In the last issue, Stuart left us in Plymouth in 1968 having just married Beryl. Read on to find out something more of his adventures...

Having never been on a plane before, I arrived at RAF Brize Norton to get my flight to Singapore, I boarded an RAF VC10 with wives, children and other Service personnel. 24 hours later we disembarked at Singapore. The first thing that hit me as I left the plane that night was the noise of the insects and the heat and humidity. I was soaked to the skin in minutes with my own sweat. I got picked up



and taken to Burma Camp the home of my unit 40 Cdo Rm in Malaya. After being issued with our Jungle Greens and a couple of days climatization, we embarked on HMS Chaton, a mine sweeper, to take us to Kuching in Borneo, to join the Unit. Another first for me. 12 of us embarked on the ship. We set sail and went straight into the teeth of a storm. I was promptly sea-sick and could not stay below decks. So I was put in a sleeping bag, tied onto a camp bed and lashed down on the Quarter Deck open to the elements. Two days later the sea state calmed and I was up and about. We reached Kuching where we

were taken to our Unit. I was sent to 6 section 5 Troop B Co, location Pang Amo. The only way in and out was by helicopter. On setting down on the helipad we were met by Capt Hunt known as Dorothy (due to the fact his underpants were longer than his shorts. He was a wee round stout man – so comical). There began what I was trained for part of a fighting Co and on patrol with my section learning my trade on active service. On a lighter note having watched the Tarzan films in the 1950s growing up I thought that the terrain in the jungle was flat, how naive was I as it was like climbing the Cairngorms on a daily basis only hacking our way through dense primary jungle hard graft. Two months before Christmas 1965, our unit was tasked to take the fight to the Indons, after 14 days in the jungle we came upon our target and engaged the enemy with all our force. We then came under heavy machine gun and mortar fire and sustained our casualties. Cpl Peter Danells, our section commander, was hit by shrapnel and died, plus 3 of our section were badly wounded. We carried on and won the battle that day. On a sad note Peter had just become a dad a month before and never got to see or hold his wee Girl. 4 weeks later the Unit withdrew from Borneo and arrived back in Burma Camp in time for Christmas. Even today I still think about that time and my faith in the Lord has got stronger as I get older.

Do you like talking?
Do you think the church has a story to share?
Then come and join the Communications Group!



We are a friendly bunch who do our best to keep people within the church up-to-date with what's happening, and also to share that news with the wider community – keeping the church in touch with itself but also helping put it in touch with others.

If you agree how important this is, come and give us a hand. You will be made very welcome and given a chance to use your skills, and possibly support to develop new ones. Speak to Janet, leave a message on the office answering machine (818211) or email info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk



WEBSITE

www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

FACEBOOK

Banff and King Edward Parish Churches



We are re-opening!

Good news everyone! With the easing of restrictions and Scotland moving out of lockdown, we are at last able to open our doors again for worship. Things will still look and feel a bit different as you might expect. Your wellbeing is very important to us and so the safety measures we put in place before Christmas are still there.

Upon entering the church you will be greeted by an elder at the sanitising table. We have spare masks there too along with a cheery welcome as always. After sanitising your hands and being greeted by the duty elder, you will be escorted to your seat using our one way system. You will also be escorted safely from the building at the end of the service. Collection plates will be in place should you wish to leave an offering as elders are not yet able to move around during the service as is our custom here at BPC. We also have some family space and a safe play area for very young children. There is space for a parent to be with wee ones as they play. Sadly we are not permitted to have seat cushions as yet but we are about to take two more steps towards normality.

The really good news is that David, our minister, will preach live from the front of the church, albeit at a safe distance. It will be so nice for many of you to see and hear him in person – just a tentative step towards normality, but a very welcome one.

Music will be a mix of recorded songs and hymns and our organist playing suitably contemplative pieces at intervals during the service. We are also now permitted to have flowers in place to beautify our church. They will be displayed around the church, a particularly attractive and welcome step towards normality.

We are so looking forward to seeing you again. The spring weather, the flowers in church and the live sermon are such a step forward after recent months. You can still book a place by contacting the church office by email or phone. If Janet is not there in person, simply leave a message on the answering machine for her. You may prefer to tell an elder of your intention to join us in some cases.

We are here to answer any questions you may have as we take this next step forward. We have decided to re-open on Sunday 9th May at our usual time for 45 minute services as before for your safety and comfort. Please join us if you can. If you are not able to join us in person at this point, you can still watch the online service or listen in on your phone as before. Looking forward to seeing you all again over the coming months. Blessings to you all.

Margaret – Session Clerk.

Easter at Banff and King Edward

Once again our Easter celebrations this year were rather different from those we have been accustomed to...yet still managed to include an incredible number of people. Here are some examples – and apologies if we have missed anything.

Lent challenges. A way of sharing part of the message of Easter with our wider community in an alternative way.

Easter Tots and Trees (front cover). Congregation and Community joining to give some of our toddlers a fun walk through the woods, discovering key parts of the Easter story.

Easter activity packs distributed to KidZone and Sunday Club families.



Palm Sunday service. Lovely to be joined by King Edward Primary School, some of our families, and a rather doddery 'donkey'!

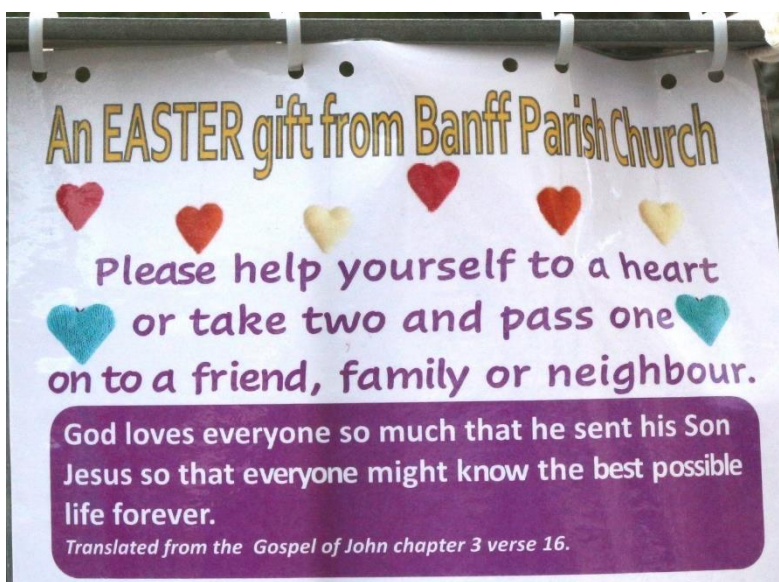
Maundy Thursday online communion.

Easter Hearts (front cover). The 'Busy Hands' people, and others, really pushed the boat out this time in knitting hearts for collection from the church railings. Over 240 hearts disappeared in record time, in addition to those distributed on behalf of King Edward Primary School to Airlie Gardens and Doo'cot View.

Easter morning service on Facebook, the website, CD and telephone. Over 230 people watched online.



Joint Easter evening service with Macduff Parish Church and River Church.



Snippets from Banff Kirk Session

Meeting 10th February 2021

- Review of Memorial Service – there was a lot of positive feedback with people saying that it had been helpful.
- Review of Coffee and Chat- everyone seems to be enjoying this and thinks it works well so the format of having two sessions in Breakout Rooms will continue. The meeting is “recurring” so the same link can be used each time. Banff people are welcome to join the King Edward chat and vice versa. It would also be good if we could encourage members of the congregation to participate.
- Letter of Resignation – The Reverend David Locke confirmed his letter of resignation. A copy will now be sent to the congregation.

Meeting 10th March 2021

- Lenten Challenge - daily challenges and reflections were being posted on Facebook each day. People were enjoying participating.
- Children and Family Work - Session were unanimous in their desire for the work of the group to continue and felt it was important to maintain links with families.
- The General Assembly in May will allocate the number of ministers for each Presbytery which should help indicate a way forward.
- There is still no clear guidance as to what is happening with the Presbytery Plan. The decision on this will influence whether or not Banff can call a new minister.

Meeting 21st April 2021

- Session voted unanimously to re-open the Church for Worship on Sundays and for Funerals on Wednesdays. Banff Parish Church building will therefore re-open on Sunday 9th May. King Edward will also open on that date.
- The Hall will be open as a polling station for the election. However general re-opening is not planned at present. If requests are received they can be dealt with at that time.
- The Treasurer reported a projected loss of approximately £10,000. This figure assumes that funds of £10,000 will be raised before the end of the year. A challenge for everyone.

Zoom Friendship Group

Due to lockdown Banff Parish Church Friendship Group was unable to meet but in October one member decided to try meeting by Zoom. All those for whom we had contact details were asked to join. Over the next few months some people came and went but we ended up with a core group of eight people. Over the months we had a variety of speakers including our Minister, Rev David Locke talking about Church life under lockdown; Eileen Brown with very amusing stories



about nursing in Shetland and Jim McNaughton with tales of his Family Tree. We had quizzes and word games, which led to much hilarity. These were interspersed with craft evenings which enabled us to make Christmas cards to send to friends and contribute to the Church “heart” giving outreach at Easter. Our last meeting was an “afternoon tea” enjoyed in the evening. As usual there was plenty of time for a chat. I think everyone felt the benefit of meeting up in this way and that it alleviated some of the loneliness and boredom of the long winter lockdown evenings.



We are looking for someone to help maintain the church website. This is a very simple job and requires a maximum of 15 minutes a week. Training can be given. Volunteers to join a rota are also welcome. Contact the church office for more information.

Banffshire Pilgrimage Group - A Place of Permanence

The seed of the idea of permanence was sown in the days of early evangelisation and conversion.

Since the 12th century, the small market town of Banff has recognised Our Lady as guiding light and patroness. The ancient and probably pre-Christian name of the town was Bean-naomh, which became Banbh, with the introduction of Scottish Gaelic. Both mean holy woman.

The original market cross which dates from the 12th century, also bears witness to Mary and the crucifixion of Jesus in stone.

The arrival of mendicant Carmelite friars in 1321 accelerated the dedication to Mary. King Robert the Bruce gifted land to the monks, who settled themselves in Banff and took care of the welfare and spiritual needs of the community. They built a small chapel, ran a hospital for lepers, sang daily vespers in the market square and stayed for a total of 250 years!

The date is fixed and the show will go on.

Two important events are to be celebrated together on Saturday 24 April 2021 in Banff. The first, the 700th anniversary of the arrival of the Carmelite brethren to the town, on this day in 1321, and secondly, the belated anniversary of the building of the present-day church in Sandyhill Road, in 1870; named in honour of the monks whose lands spread out around Colleopard and Sandyhill down to Wrack Woods, where they built their monastery near the river Deveron. There are no archaeological remains to be found, but in the town their renown can be found etched in street names, never to be forgotten.

These holy men had travelled, as a named Order, and by Papal approval of three Popes, (Honorius III in 1226, Gregory IX in 1229 and Innocent IV in 1247), from the holy mountain of Mount Carmel, near Haifa in northern Israel, across Europe, to Scotland. The furthest north they travelled was Banff.

Two of the monks are known to us by name, and a local pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 17th July at 11.00am. On the day of our pilgrimage, a plaque will be unveiled in memory of the monks.

Details of the event on Saturday 17th July 2021 may be obtained by registering interest to harrislink44@gmail.com or the Parish Office on 01261 815405. Please wear all-weather clothing and footwear and bring your lunch! A map will be available and total distance is 4 miles which can all be accessed by car. The day begins at 11.00am when we will meet at Duff House Car Park for intercessions. Lunch will be at Banff Castle with a Thanksgiving and we will then move to the Mausoleum for Reflections and a Blessing.

- Submitted by Irene Finlayson on behalf of BACAC.

So what's the last year been like for you?

As we finally come out of what is (hopefully!) our last lockdown, the Bridge Team surveyed some well-known people in our church and community to find out the highs (and lows) of the last year. Here is a light-hearted look at what some of you said.

Spending more time together means we've a stronger relationship.

We missed our annual trip to St Andrews to play golf.

I've been unable to go out on my own – I've really felt the loss of independence.

We had to adhere to a strict regime of mask wearing, hand washing and social distancing in school hubs which catered for a number of children from other primary schools. It was so strange to walk into an empty corridor. The silence was almost audible! This term it's so lovely to hear that familiar sound as staff and children go about their daily routines.

We've done lots and lots of gardening.

We saved money – no shopping just for the sake of it, no petrol and of course no hairdresser!

I spent some time researching my family tree. Turns out my distant ancestors were quite well-to-do!



I painted my shed!

During the first lockdown I carried out a range of different tasks with my minibus. I drove the children of key workers to school, did patient transfers for the NHS locally and in Aberdeen as well as transporting some PPE. During the second lockdown I also drove people to vaccination appointments.

Mummy isn't allowed into Grandma's house, only into the garden.

A hard, challenging time – isolated, trying to be positive and help people, but it got harder and harder.



Less pressure to be always 'doing things' means we've felt less stressed and more relaxed.

A well-kent face: Peter Ingram

I was born in Turriff and stayed there until 1963 when my parents moved to Banff to what was then the Bridge Shop and house. The house was originally built as a Lifeboat Station around 1877. The building apparently lay empty for a few years and was bought at auction by a Mr Craigmyle in August 1923 and was converted to a house some time after that. I don't know how long Mr Craigmyle had the building but a lot of the local folk knew it as Craigmyle's Shop.



My parents bought the property from Mr Gordon Simpson who moved to King Edward and ran a

joiner's business there. When we moved to Banff in 1963 my parents ran the shop which sold ice cream, sweets, tobacco and a small amount of groceries. My dad worked in Cordiners Garage at that time. I can remember after the shop closed for the day we would sometimes get a knock on the house door and this would be some of the workers from the local distillery stocking up on cigarettes before their night shift began. It was a busy little shop in the summer but very quiet during winter. The shop closed in 1974.

My dad started a garage behind the house just before I left school in 1969. When I did leave school I worked with my dad in the garage and served my time as a motor mechanic. I went to the Technical College in Aberdeen and gained my City and Guilds certificates for Motor Engineering.

In 1975 Moira and I were married in the then St Mary's Parish Church and after a short while living in a residential caravan at Bridgend we moved to a house in Tannery Street and we lived there till 1990.

It had been my father's wish that I would take over the garage and run it on my own but I didn't have the confidence to do this and was wondering what I should do next. In 1990 the property was put on the market for sale and advertised in the local papers. I was walking back from Banff just about to cross the bridge when I met in with a colleague of my dad's from a previous employment at another garage and he asked me why were we selling the house and garage when

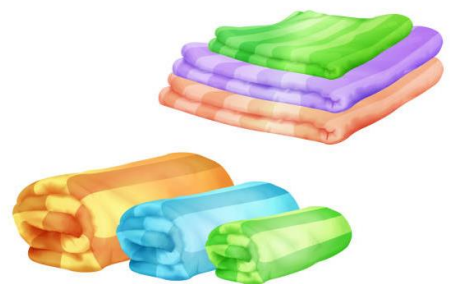
he thought I would make a go of it. Moira was telling me this all the time but I wasn't too sure. So we decided that we would take over the house and garage business at Bridgend. My parents moved into our house in Tannery Street.

Taking over a business was a daunting thought but being a member of the Kirk Session and seeing how the church works helped give me confidence and some knowledge on running the church so I was able to adapt this to running a business. I remember our Minister at the time, Rev Austin Erskine asked me and two others if we would start a youth group in the church. Mr Erskine gave me some insight of what to do and suggested I go to the next Kirk Session meeting and ask for a grant to start the youth group and with the money we could reline the hall floor and possibly buy some equipment. I went to the Kirk Session, the time came for a very nervous Peter Ingram to ask the property convenor Charlie Finlayson if it was possible to reline the hall floor. Well I know I didn't word it very well as Charlie thought we wanted to cover the floor when I should have said, repaint the lines on the floor. I have learned a lot from being a member of the Kirk session and am really grateful for this.

ANY OLD IRON!

I'm sure you will have heard the well-known 'Any old iron' cry of the rag-and-bone man. Our cry to you is ...Any old towels....any old sheets!

Bridgend Garage will make a donation to Banff Parish Church for your old towels and flannelette sheets. Bags of towels can be dropped off at the garage or if someone wants me to collect anything they can call the garage number 01261 812393 and I'll arrange to collect them.



Church of Scotland General Assembly 2021

David Locke

The General Assembly was unlike any I have been at before. It was a blend of a few officials meeting in the assembly hall and most of us meeting virtually online by zoom. We had voting buttons on our laptops we could use for or against each item of debate. And we could press another button to ask to speak or to propose a motion. It worked well, showing a way forward for future assemblies, presbyteries and kirk sessions.



The Assembly was very well led not by a minister but by an Elder of the Kirk – Lord Jim Wallace the former Lib Dem politician and an Elder in Orkney's St.



Magnus Cathedral. He showed good sense, faith and wisdom; and that we don't need to rely on ministers. The Queen's representative, her grandson Prince William, was quite inspiring also; he spoke well about the importance of faith, the church, community values and Scotland, and throughout the week showed a widely praised normality and informality meeting people, and even watching the Scottish cup final in a pub.

The main issue of the week was the agreed much-needed drastic cut back, by about a quarter, in the number of churches and ministers (down to about 600) by 2025, reflecting the ongoing decline in church membership and finances, and the growing shortage of ministers. These mean that churches like ours will not be able to call a new minister until Presbytery agrees a new plan for which church buildings should remain and where ministers should be allocated. At the same time there was strong emphasis that churches must change radically to conduct much more effective mission, including lessons from the pandemic of how online services are reaching unchurched people well.

Churches are to focus on the 5 marks of mission accepted around the world: proclaiming the kingdom, nurturing faith, loving service, tackling injustice, and safeguarding creation. Sadly our version excluded any mention of Jesus, but Assembly accepted my proposal to include words used around the world, that the mission of the church is the mission of Christ, despite the committee convenor in charge not agreeing with me!

Another issue was the proposal to accept that ministers could conduct marriage ceremonies for people of the same sex, but with protection for ministers who do not want to do this, and believe in the traditional biblical clarity that marriage is between a man and a woman. This will now be sent down to presbyteries for them to ratify it or not.

Quiz – Historical Banff

1. Which famous writer visited Banff in 1773?

2. Which actor who appeared in The Vicar of Dibley attended Banff Academy?



3. Which writer is married to a descendant of the founder of Banff Foundry?

4. Where in Banff was The Roperie?

5. Who was the last Provost of Banff?

6. In what year was Banff granted a Charter by Robert the Second?

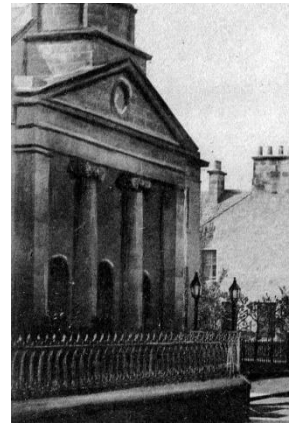
7. Where was the original Banff Town & County Club?

8. Which famous naturalist lived in Deveronside?

9. Who was the last Minister of Trinity & Alvah Church?



10. Where in Banff is Morrison Place?



Answers on page 21.

Canal Park Consultation

A reminder that the consultation on proposals regarding the sale of land at Canal Park, Banff closes on 30th June 2021. You can view and respond to the proposals at www.engage.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/canal-park-common-good-consultation Alternatively, request a paper copy by telephoning 01467 530700.

A Kid's Eye View

Can you imagine the nun sitting at her desk grading these papers, all the while trying to keep a straight face and maintain her composure? Pay special attention to the wording and spelling. If you know the Bible even a little, you'll find this hilarious! It comes from an actual Catholic elementary school test. Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments. The following statements about the bible were written by children. They have not been retouched or corrected.

1. In the first book of the bible, Guinness, God got tired of creating the world so he took the Sabbath off.
2. Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree. Noah's wife was Joan of Ark. Noah built an Ark and the animals came on in pairs.
3. Lot's wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.
4. The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic genitals.
5. Sampson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.
6. Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the apostles.
7. Moses led the Jews to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.
8. The Egyptians were all drowned in the desert. Afterwards, Moses went up to Mount Sinai to get the Ten Commandments.
9. The first Commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
10. The seventh commandment is thou shalt not admit adultery.
11. Moses died before he ever reached Canada then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Jericho.
12. The greatest miracle in the bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him.
13. David was a Hebrew king who was skilled at playing the harp. He fought the Philistines, a race of people who lived in biblical times.
14. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 concubines.
15. When Mary heard she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta.
16. When the three wise guys from the east side arrived they found Jesus in the manger.

17. Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
18. St. John the Blacksmith dumped water on his head.
19. Jesus enunciated the golden rule, which says to do unto others before they do one to you. He also explained a man doth not live by sweat alone.
20. It was a miracle when Jesus rose from the dead and managed to get the tombstone off the entrance.
21. The people who followed the lord were called the 12 decibels.
22. The epistles were the wives of the apostles.
23. One of the opossums was St. Matthew who was also a taxi man.
24. St. Paul cavorted to Christianity; he preached holy acrimony which is another name for marriage.
25. Christians have only one spouse. This is called monopoly.

Thanks to Keith Donald for sending this in.

Thanks and appreciation

As you will have read in the last edition of the Bridge, our minister, Rev David Locke will be leaving us in July (see David’s letter for an update). David has been minister in Banff and King Edward for nearly nine years and in that time has faithfully ministered to the congregations of the two churches and to the community. If you would like to make a donation towards a gift of thanks and appreciation for David’s ministry please put your donation in an envelope marked ‘Leaving Gift’ and drop it through the office letterbox on Back Path, alternatively if you would like to make a direct payment the bank details are: Sort Code: 80-22-60 Account: 15948463. Please add your name as reference. Donations should be made by 27th June 2021.

Quiz Answers (from page 19)			
1. Samuel Johnson	2. James Fleet	3. J. K. Rowling	4. St. Catherine Street
5. Sandy Gordon	6. 1372	7. Castle Street	8. Thomas Edward
9. Harold Steven	10. Gallowhill		

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.

Isabel Clark, Dounemount Nursing Home, Macduff.

George Strachan, Mill of Balmaud, Turriff.

“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

An update from the Flower Group.

We are delighted that our church is now open again at long last and hopefully we are heading back to some sort of normality. We all know that things will be and have to be different for some time to come but we can adapt and try to make things possible. To this end we started having flowers back in Church as of the 9th May when we re-opened.

Things will be a wee bit different for a while as we try to adhere to the rules/recommendations to keep things as safe as possible. We will be having vases of fresh flowers on the shelves at the sides of the church. Elders will be distributing these flowers after the service as normal. There is an artificial arrangement at the front of the church to brighten things up there. This has been sanitised and will remain in place untouched meantime. As Janet is nearest to it whilst at her computer I did apologise for the odd aroma of Dettol spray she might get from the flowers!! She assures me there wasn't!

The Flower list is now open again, so if you wish to add your name and kindly donate for some flowers on any date please get in touch with myself (Pat McLennan) on 815737 or Mary Cameron on 812716.

It has been a real struggle for us all since the beginning of last year and we pray for better times ahead. I am sure we are all looking forward to "seeing" people again as we cautiously move forward.

**BANFF PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND** - Charity No SC015501  
**Minister:** Rev David I W Locke MA M.Sc., BD    Tel: 01261 812107

|                                   |                                                                                                                               |                       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Session Clerk                     | Mrs. Margaret Henderson                                                                                                       | 01888 551779          |
| Worship & Discipleship            | Ministry Team                                                                                                                 | Contact details above |
| Fellowship & Service Co-ordinator | Vacant                                                                                                                        |                       |
| Outreach Co-ordinator             | Vacant                                                                                                                        |                       |
| 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>                                               |                       |
| Children and Families contact     | email: <a href="mailto:childrenandfamiliesbanffparishchurch@outlook.com">childrenandfamiliesbanffparishchurch@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              | Vacant                |              |
| 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**

|                         |                             |        |                     |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------------------|
| 27th June               | Possible communion services | 9.30am | King Edward Church  |
|                         |                             | 11am   | Banff Parish Church |
| 4th <b>OR</b> 11th July | Minister's last services    | 9.30am | King Edward Church  |
|                         |                             | 11am   | Banff Parish Church |

## **Regular Activities**

|                 |              |             |         |                             |
|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| Coffee and Chat | Every Sunday | King Edward | 11am    | By Zoom: contact church     |
|                 |              | Banff       | 12.30pm | office for more information |

Friendship Group has now stopped for the summer.

Book Club has now stopped for the summer.

**For the most up-to-date information please check Facebook.**

## **Our churches are now open!**

**In-person services** in King Edward Parish Church (9.30am) and Banff Parish Church (11am). Bookings should be made by 4.30pm on the Friday before the service by calling the office number 01261 818211 and leaving your name and contact number. Your place will be confirmed by noon on the Saturday.

**Online services** are available on the Facebook page from 6.30am on Sunday and on our website from Sunday evening. Search for 'Banff and King Edward Churches Facebook' and click on the link, or visit [www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk/Resources](http://www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk/Resources)

**Phone services** are available by dialling **01261 303464**. The cost would be as for a normal local phone call of that length. The service is available from 6.30am on Sunday morning.

We are still distributing **CDs** of the services; if you would like to receive one please contact the church office.

## ***ALL ARE WELCOME***