

# The Bridge

June/July 2019



Banff & King Edward Parish Churches  
[www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk](http://www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk)

## *Dear Friends in Banff and King Edward*

*"Jesus said FOLLOW ME! And I will make you fishers of people, and immediately they left their nets and followed him."*



Irene Finlayson and I were commissioners at this year's **General Assembly of the Church of Scotland**. It was inspiring, not least its passion and encouragement for change to begin across the church. The new Moderator was impressive: Colin Sinclair, Minister at Edinburgh Palmerston Place Church, is a

former head of Scripture Union. Susan Brown, last year's Moderator, said to him: "You care passionately about communicating the good news of Jesus Christ to people of all ages...and seeing the difference faith in Christ makes to people's lives both spiritually and physically. Colin wrote a book *The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Bible*, which the Queen's High Commissioner praised as an excellent introduction to the Bible! The Moderator set the tone for the Assembly and perhaps the whole church by emphasising its theme of following Jesus radically, as the first disciples did. He called us all to be fishers of people, raising people around us up in life by sharing the good news Jesus offers.

Amongst the many topical issues dealt with at the Assembly, the vital importance of us all responding to **climate change** now was stressed; how we use energy and plastic in our homes, cars, work; voices from churches around the world told us of thousands of lives already being lost and perhaps millions damaged. In a finely balanced decision, Assembly voted to keep investments in oil companies because of evidence that Christian investors acting together are changing oil companies' decisions for the better, in ways we could not by just protesting from the outside. Assembly also affirmed the existing substantial work of the church around the world working with partner churches to make a real difference against poverty and persecution.

The main item was the **church's decision, after years of delay, to radically change its way of operating**, calling local churches – us – to follow. The aim is to cut the costs of the church's central offices at '121' by 20-30% over 2 years and release resources and power to local presbyteries and churches. Central councils will be reduced to just two main ones reporting to a brand new Board of 12 trustees who will recruit a chief officer to oversee the church, and effectively organise it along the lines of other major charities. The General Assembly may be slightly reduced in size, but will continue to decide policy.

In parallel, **churches are being called to radically look at how we use our buildings and address what is needed for the 21st century** for congregation and community. Presbyteries are to be reformed into maybe 12 larger regional presbyteries with the resources to actually help local churches, so that some of the extensive administrative burden on church leaders in smaller churches might be reduced, helped by larger churches, groups of churches sharing more together, and working with other denominations, not competing. A fresh focus on reaching those under the age of 40 is to be made in new ways including a new hymns supplement. **The basic message for us all was it's time for change and we all have to grasp the challenge.** The church was well geared in the past for stability but the need now is for flexibility and change, and for us all to share our faith and the difference it makes in ways relevant to those around us.



At the Assembly, **the First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, praised the Church of Scotland's "vital" role in national life.** "I am struck by the extent to which the Church is at the centre not just of people's spiritual life but of Scottish public life." I wish the Church of Scotland well as you continue to play a central, vital and highly valued role in Scotland's national life. The manner in which this Assembly conducts itself is a model of how big issues can be debated in a way

that builds consensus rather than deepening division." Indeed she echoed the Queen's High Commissioner who said **we must all learn to "disagree better"** by listening courteously to others" She spoke of how the church plays its part in the government's aims of focussing on people's well-being not just economic growth and in promoting the values of kindness, dignity, compassion. She said: "Everyone in Scotland – Christians, those of every faith or none – benefit from the work that you do...The Scottish Government welcomes, and indeed cherishes, the role of the Church of Scotland in our national life."

We have said **farewell to our student Minister Christine McWhirter**, with presentations at both churches on the last Sunday of May. We will miss her greatly as she has been a great blessing and already is a very good Minister, although she has much more training to undertake. Please keep her in your prayers. Alongside the encouragement and challenge from the General Assembly that change is possible and we all have our part to play, Christine gives us **hope for the future**, a message that, as she emphasised in her Easter talks to Banff Academy assemblies, is what our faith uniquely gives.

Yours faithfully,

*David*

## **Banff and King Edward Parish Churches**

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

email: DLocke@churchofscotland.org.uk

**Children and Family Worker:** Mrs. Karen Cumming    Tel: 07484 090127

**Pastoral Assistant:** Vera Lumsden    Tel: 07890 865931

**Church Office:** 01261 818211

email: info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

## **Your church magazine needs YOU!**

Bridge Team

Many thanks to all those who have already returned their feedback forms. Your comments are all very helpful and the Bridge Team will be considering them at our next meeting sometime over the summer, after which we will be sure to feedback to you all through the magazine.

If you've not completed your form yet, don't worry! Spare copies can be found at the back of the church and in the church hall. If these locations have run out, you can also print a copy from the church website.

Alternatively put a request into the Secretary's box and someone from the Bridge Team will get back to you with a form. We're happy to get feedback at any time but if you return your forms by 31st July we'll be able to take your comments into account at the next meeting.



Thanks also to those who have been inspired by some of the many events taking place in our church and have submitted articles for this issue. We hope you enjoy reading them as much as we have and look forward to printing even more exciting news about everything that is happening in our wider church community!

## **Banff Bookworms**

Margaret Henderson

Three years have now passed since someone suggested starting a book club at Banff Parish Church. The suggestion resulted from the Stewardship of Talents campaign which encouraged all those associated with the church to use their talents and interests for the benefit of others, to enjoy fellowship with like-minded people and to reach out to the local community. It was suggested that enthusiastic readers might enjoy being part of a group for the purpose of discussing books and meeting new friends with a common interest. Following

an initial meeting to discuss how to proceed, we met for the first time on the 26th May 2016.

Three years and 28 books later, we continue to meet monthly in the Kirk Lounge. We meet on the last Thursday of each month at 2.30pm. We don't meet in December due to the other demands of the festive season. Ten or twelve members appear at our meetings throughout the year. Discussions are lively, often thought provoking and frequently amusing. Although our discussions start with the book in question, they inevitably lead to wider discussions on a huge range of issues.

There may be a slight misconception out there that a church-based reading group focuses on religious texts. Not so! We read a wide range of fiction and nonfiction books, each of us keen to read something different from our usual personal preference. If someone were to suggest a religious book, we would be happy to read it. All suggestions from members are welcome.

Deciding which book to read next is a fairly informal affair. Members may find suggestions on reading lists, in their local library, on radio broadcasts, even with the help of Richard and Judy! Suggestions are collected and books chosen randomly from our list. We started out with *The Miniaturist* by Jessie Burton and have recently finished *The Woman In White* by Wilkie Collins. We have discussed classics by Thomas Hardy and Jane Austen, crime fiction by Val McDermid, "chick lit" by various writers as well as excellent biographies/ autobiographies by Frank Gardner and Catherine Marshall. We have read of the Nazi occupation of Guernsey during the war and the unsavoury activities at Jamaica Inn.

From a personal point of view, it was my great pleasure last year to reread my favourite book of all time – *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. I also thoroughly enjoyed and would really recommend *A*

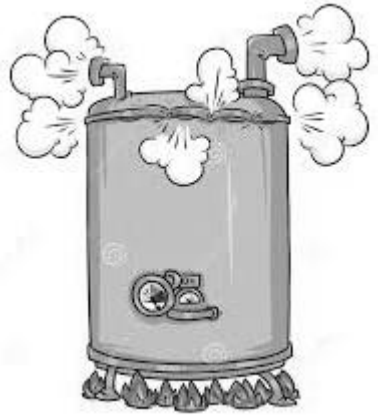
*gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towler. The latter is such an engaging story. I think every member of our group would agree that the strangest text any of us has ever read is by an American author named Carson McCullers. Her book *The Ballad of the sad Cafe* is strange and rather unsettling to say the least!

Please feel free to come along to a meeting. Do not feel obliged to attend all of them. We would welcome any new members and value your input. If you arrive early, you can also enjoy a little fellowship and a nice cup of tea at the Open Door Kirk Cafe!



## Hall Upgrade: Progress

The recent refurbishment of the vestibule has, without doubt, brightened-up the main hall. The next phase of hall improvements is working its way through Presbytery at the moment. This will involve bringing the heating up to standard. The hall heating runs off the same boiler as the Church. That is how it was all set up when the halls were built, the best part of a century ago. This arrangement – sensible as it may have then appeared – is simply not efficient. We have received independent advice that a separate boiler for the halls will show sufficient fuel savings to pay for itself within a few years.



So, a new boiler is essential.

Following on from this, the way the present radiators in the main hall were designed, they heat the wooden panels that conceal them, rather than the airspace. Patently inefficient. They will, therefore, be replaced with modern radiators. And, since the wood panels will have to go, new, and more aesthetic, oak panelling will be installed.

To achieve further efficiency savings, the new system will operate in “zones”, allowing the main hall, the back offices and the lower hall to be heated separately.

Finally, the swing doors have exceeded their shelf-life. The self-closing mechanisms haven’t worked properly in living memory, and even when closed they fail to keep winter’s worst draughts at bay. So, modern glass doors will replace them

The costs, which will be finalised once the paperwork has come back from Presbytery, can be met from existing fundraising, supplemented if necessary from the Consolidated Fabric Fund. This is money held on our behalf by the Church of Scotland specifically for projects like this.

All being well, then, we would hope to have this work completed within the summer months, so that the halls are fit for our own purposes, and those of other hall users, by next autumn.

## From a very proud Grandmother!

Margaret Brown

*My grand-daughter Abbie struggled through primary school. From being the lead twin who looked out for her sister at nursery she became more and more reserved. The change we have seen since she was diagnosed with Dyslexia in P7 has been wonderful. She is turning into a very confident young lady and had no hesitation in giving me permission to print her essay in the Bridge. She wants to highlight the problem that many children have with learning and how they feel. She has already had an essay and picture printed in a book called Dyslexia is my superpower. It contains stories from around the world by children all suffering from Dyslexia.*

### My Dyslexia Story

My name is Abbie Brown and at the age of 11 I was diagnosed with dyslexia. It was at the end of P7 when I got the news the news that changed my life. After 6 years of trying to find out what was wrong with me, what was holding me back? I finally found out.

Finding out that I had dyslexia was one of the best and most beneficial things that happened to me. The build-up was not though. Every week a test, every day writing, every minute asking the person next to me "Is this right? What do I do?" I felt like I was a baby learning to write, spell and read but I wasn't. It just turned out that I have different needs and that is OK.

I let dyslexia control my life. The whole thought of people judging me for the way I spell, read, and write killed me. Even teachers telling me "You just need to put your head down" or "You just need to try a little harder." No matter if I did put my head down or tried that little bit harder, nothing changed because I have dyslexia and I have come to accept that and so have other people.

The anxiety and stress of going to school and knowing that you will be picked to answer a question or read in front of the class was dreadful. After telling the teacher that I have dyslexia or struggle with this or that they still made me read in front of the class or answer a question but after a while I was confident to answer a question every now and again or read a few lines from a book in front of the class.

But dyslexia is not all that bad because of dyslexia I am in a book called 'Dyslexia is my super power' for drawing a picture. But because of my dyslexia I have got stronger as a person and as an individual. I am proud to be dyslexic and I would tell it to the whole world if I could because being dyslexic is a good thing and we need to express that.

I am now 13 years old and I am proud to be dyslexic because that's who I am and nothing will change that.



*Go for It is the 121 (Church of Scotland headquarters) committee which has partially financed Banff Parish Church's Children and Family project over the past three years. Here Charlie Smith, who convenes the Children and Family management group at Banff Parish Church, shares a little information about the funding process.*

### **What is Go for It?**

It is a fund set up in 2012 and operated by the Ministries Council. Its aim is to encourage creative ways of working which develop the life and mission of the local church.

Its main function is to offer sources of finance to worthy and appropriate projects each of which must have a clear link to a Church of Scotland congregation. Go for It has a budget of approximately £1m per annum.

### **Who decides on the grants?**

A small group of full time staff in 121 assisted by up to twelve volunteers from churches throughout Scotland meet to decide who can get what. For details of the specific kind of grants available, please go to the Go for It website. The 121 team are also a willing source of advice on employability and Health and Safety requirements for congregations wishing to set up projects.

### **Who is eligible?**

Any Church of Scotland may apply. The applying church would be expected to meet rigorous funding criteria and be able to match fund any grant awarded. Main grants would be for a maximum of three years but extensions can be applied for.

### **What kind of projects are eligible?**

Many of the projects funded are focused on Youth and Family Work with a high proportion of the finance being used to pay salaries for such outreach work. There have also been many other varied examples of funds being provided for befriending schemes, engaging with local schools and street pastor type projects. (The website contains many other examples.)

With many churches facing challenging situations as they seek to appoint ministers of word and sacrament, it may be the case that future demands on the Go for It fund will increase as congregations seek alternative ways of spreading the Word in their communities.



## 10 things you didn't know about Banff Girl Guiding...

*(continued from the last edition)*

### The Guide Law

- A Guide is honest, reliable and can be trusted
- A Guide is helpful and uses her time and abilities wisely
- A Guide faces challenges and learns from her experiences
- A guide is a good friend and a sister to all Guides
- A Guide is polite and considerate
- A Guide respects all living things and takes care of the world around her.

Girlguiding is very much a child-led organization, promoting self-directed learning to build self-esteem and self-confidence. At the start of each term each unit holds planning meetings. For example, Rainbows wanted to sing carols at Christmas time and decided as a group to visit Banff Care Home.

In the past year we have contributed to our local community in various ways. Rainbows have visited the fire station, cinema, coastguards and some local shops. All units have attended the Remembrance Day service at Banff Parish Church.

Brownies have raised money for Poppy Scotland, donated money to the RSPB, and held a Coffee Morning with Whitehills Brownies for Fyvie Guide House renovations.

All the groups have had an amazing year and are looking forward to planning for the new year.

The adults of the Guiding group provide a safe environment for the girls to try everything, from making, baking and creating to singing silly songs, exercising, learning and exploring

Each evening that they meet they say the Brownie and Guides Promise:  
I promise that I will do my best to be true to myself and develop my beliefs, to serve the Queen and my community, to help other people and to keep the (Brownie) Guide Law.

The younger girls' (the Rainbows) promise is simpler:  
I promise that I will do my best to think about my beliefs and to be kind and helpful.

***Well done to all the Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and their Leaders!  
We look forward to hearing about more of your adventures in due course.***

## ***On a personal note.....***

*(Notes from the diary of the Pastoral Assistant.)*

One of the highlights in Banff Church recently was the singing of our new Kidzone Choir on Easter Sunday morning. Did you hear them? They were wonderful!



Iona sang her solo beautifully. Ryan, another Kidzone member, played the piano really well for the first song "Hot Cross Buns". Marie, our Minister's wife, (and, I'm sure, a friend and fan of the Kidzone Choir), accompanied the second song "For God So Loved The World".

Watch out for them coming along to sing in church later in the year, and please can I urge you to welcome and encourage them. We may not see many of them in church any other time, so a warm welcome and encouraging word could mean a lot to them when they do come along.

*Vera.*

### **"Overheard in the Orchard"**

*Said the robin to the sparrow*

*"I should really like to know*

*Why these anxious human beings*

*Rush about and worry so."*



*Said the sparrow to the robin  
"Friend, I think that it must be  
That they have no Heavenly Father  
Such as cares for you and me."*

*– contributed anonymously.*

## The Kinloss Military Wives' Choir

Sheila Smith

A wonderful evening of songs and fellowship was enjoyed by all who came to hear the Kinloss Military Wives Choir perform in our Church on the 27th April.



We were treated to a selection of songs arranged by their Music Director Brian Smith, many of which were familiar. Two of the ladies, Delphine Leadbeater and Sheila Thompson, performed spoken pieces which were very moving. The ladies spoke of their lives as military wives and all that it entailed while their husbands were deployed. During the interval tea and cakes were served in the hall which was packed and had a real buzz. The ladies in the choir mingled and chatted to everyone in the hall before going back into Church for the second

part of their performance. Some of them were most impressed with their tea and cakes and came to ask if they could buy some cakes to take home.

The Military Wives Network was established to bring support and friendship within Military communities, with



husbands and partners often deployed for many months at a time. With over 75 choirs in the UK and growing worldwide, wherever a posting takes place you will find a choir.

The choir said they hoped to come back to perform again sometime in the future. If you missed them in April be sure to get tickets if they do return for another performance.

## BUSY HANDS

Roseanna Youngson

Busy hands have had a busy start to 2019.

In March, Roseanna and Beverley made their second visit to Street Friends, helping the homeless, in Aberdeen when they handed over fifty knitted and crocheted items.

Busy Hands also donate items to Loving Hands and recently delivered two hundred and fifty items, including gloves, hats, sweaters, slippers and teddies. Loving Hands distribute to charities throughout the UK and abroad. For further information about the work of Loving Hands see [www.lovinghands.org.uk](http://www.lovinghands.org.uk).



The group are delighted to have donated £100 towards our own 'Hall Heating Fund, and £114 to purchase leaflet/booklet display racks for the hall. The money is raised through donations for teas and biscuits/cakes served at our monthly meetings.



Grateful thanks to all who come along and support the group and donate to our charities.

This is an open group for anyone in the area who enjoys keeping their hands busy with knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching or any kind of crafting. All are welcome to come along to work on their own project or to knit/crochet for our charities.

Do come along and join us on the last Saturday of each month from 10am-12pm to enjoy some laughs, chat and tea/coffee and biscuit or cake. You will be made most welcome.

*Photographs are from projects supported by Loving Hands.*

**Busy Hands next meets on Saturdays 29th June and 27th July. Please come along to Banff Church Hall and join us!**

## MAD HATTERS TEA PARTY (and short play)

Morag Johnston

- **Friday 20th September 2019** (doors open 5.30pm – play commences 6pm)
- **Saturday 21st September 2019** (doors open 1.30pm – play commences 2pm)

Tickets only: Entertainment for all ages.

Please feel free to dress in 'Alice in Wonderland' character costumes

**Mad Hatters Hat** – Prize for the best design.

A spectacular event is taking place in Banff Parish Church Hall on the above dates: a short play by the KidZone children, followed by a Mad Hatters Tea Party full of "Wonderland Treats". Let us transport you into the 'Magical world of Alice' and meet her and some of the characters.

I remember reading Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll and being transported into her world where "Everything would be nonsense, nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn't, and contrariwise, what it is it wouldn't be, and what it wouldn't be, it would, you see" (I must admit I did have to read that part a few times until it made sense or nonsense!!!). Do you remember the characters such as the White Rabbit, who wore a waistcoat and carried his pocket-watch? He was extremely upset because he was "late, late, for a very important date, no time to say Hello, Goodbye he was late, late, late." The characters of Tweedle-Dee and Tweedle-Dum, who were happy, jolly, identical figures who wanted to do battle with each other but never quite succeeded. The Mad Hatter who kept moving round the table for a 'Clean Cup' and his wonderful Mad Tea Party involving a March Hare and an extremely sleepy Dormouse.

We will bring all these characters to life in a short play and transform the Church Hall into that magical world, including a tea party full of amazing treats, and unlike Alice we will ensure that you do have a cup of tea!!! (possibly more than one cup).

You will appreciate that there is a lot of work involved in producing this event and we would love you to join us in volunteering to help make the scenery, props, decorations and bake our delicious treats.

If you would like to help, please contact:

Church Office – 01261 818211 – Janet Simpson

Rosie Blanchard – 01261 861029

Morag Johnston – 01261 390323

# King Edward Church Coffee Morning and King Edward SWI achievements

Eva Collins

King Edward church held their coffee morning on Saturday 4th. May and despite the inclement weather raised £2,500. Thanks go to everyone who helped out on the day, at the sales tables, serving the teas, or baking for the event. All give their help willingly. Thanks also to those who came along to show their support.

‘The Country Comes to Town’ competition was held at Inverurie Town Hall on Saturday 11th May. This is an SWI competition open to all SWI institutes in Aberdeenshire. It gives me great pleasure to announce that the King Edward SWI craft display came second from an entry of over 30. The theme was "Pick a Season" and ours was Spring. There were also individual prizes from King Edward so well done again.

## Joint Services

Here are the probable dates and locations of joint services in the summer. These are still to be confirmed so please check the bulletin or Facebook for up-to-date information.

|           |             |         |
|-----------|-------------|---------|
| 7th July  | King Edward | 10.15am |
| 14th July | Banff       | 10.15am |
| 21st July | King Edward | 10.15am |
| 28th July | Banff       | 10.15am |



## Banff Churches Together

Irene Finlayson

Banff Churches Together (BCT) planned several exciting initiatives to coincide with the Easter Holy Week. A Prayer Night was held in the River Church and Maureen Watt has kindly written about her experience of this and what Banff Churches Together means to her in the following article.

The meeting between the congregations of the Churches in Banff and Macduff at River Church on 16th April was truly inspirational and filled me and many others with fresh hope for our towns, the people and the entire area around us. It was an amazing evening of worship, thanking God for all He has done and all He is going to do.

It was well attended, well organised and very well received. God's word tells us that where His people live together in unity, there He commands the blessing. I long to see God's blessings fall on our community, our friends and families and on all the generations. I believe that together we can make a difference. To play our part in partnership with God and each other costs nothing but commitment to give a few moments of our time to pray for whoever God puts on our hearts. I am excited and expectant that we will see God move in power and we will see many hearts won to Jesus through the Try Praying Project.

I joined Banff Churches Together many years ago because I believed it was God's will that His people show others that we can work together to pray for His will to be done on earth. I have been encouraged so much by the friendship and trust that has developed and also by the number of things we have achieved over the years. When I tell folk from other places about our group, they think it's brilliant. If it can work here it can work anywhere in the country. We always welcome and value new input so if you have an hour or so to spare one evening a month come along, as we would love to have you share your opinions and ideas.

Blessings, Maureen

A Good Friday Walk of Witness was taken on a beautiful afternoon from OLMC church along the High Street and ending at St Andrew's Church. This was attended by participants from the various churches some of whom took it in turn to carry the cross. Christine McWhirter, Student Minister BPC, organised and conducted the outdoor service in front of St Andrew's Church which was enhanced by a sound system kindly supplied by Deveron FM. Prayers were said by Vera Lumsden, Rev David Locke and Pastor Robb Mc Arthur.





Sadly, BCT were notified of the sudden departure of Father Francis from OLMC church prior to Easter and it is hoped he will return in the near future. At a recent meeting of BCT Pastor Robb described how school Chaplains have set up a booth in Banff Academy's Library so that pupils may access Chaplains and talk to them in private. This has greatly benefitted vulnerable students.

He continued to describe how the Community Council meeting discussed new street names for the Springfield Development opposite Banff Springs Hotel and suggestions included Carnegie and McPherson. The downgrading of Banff's MI Units was also highlighted and Banff residents were encouraged to attend the public meeting on Wednesday 1st May to voice their concerns.

A rota has been devised for Christian Unity on Sunday 9th June (Pentecost) whereby members of one congregation visit another church in Banff.

*The deadline for the August/September issue of the Bridge is 5pm on Thursday 18th July. Please send your contributions to [TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com](mailto:TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com)*

Dear friends in King Edward and Banff,

It hardly seems possible for nine months to have passed since I received a warm welcome at the start of my placement in September 2018. In those nine months I have been very privileged to be part of the churches in King Edward and Banff.

In the course of my placement I have learned a great deal from David, Vera and both congregations. I greatly value all the friendships I have made.

I start my next placement early in June at Echt and Midmar. I am glad and grateful I will be able to take all I have learned in King Edward and Banff and apply it in my next placement and throughout my ministry journey.

For now, I would like to say thank you, farewell for now and I wish all in the churches and communities in King Edward and Banff every blessing.

Christine.



## Friendship Group

Pat McLennan

The Friendship Group is now having its summer break and will resume on the 3rd of September.

We have again had excellent meetings these past few months, with people speaking on various topics, such as Moira from Soy Kilts, Lynette and James Oldman on their travels to New Zealand, and Aidan and Mason on their school trip to Tanzania supporting the Vine Trust. We had a talk about the work of the Mercy Ships and also about Downs Syndrome. These were very thought provoking and emotional. The visit by Alex from Portsoy Ice Cream was very well received as were the samples we were allowed to try! We also had a poppy-making evening courtesy of Janet, a visit to Banff Bowling (all windows are still intact) and a Scots night. We had our obligatory Beetle Drive of course where the competitiveness is worth watching! Who knew we had so many talented "tall tale tellers" in our Group, this came to light on our Call My Bluff quiz night and proved a very popular and enjoyable evening. To round things off this year we are going to Christies in Fochabers for High Tea in June.

As you can see our meetings are varied, informative and fun and all are welcome (men and women) to come and join us. Whether you come to one or all of the meetings you will be made most welcome. Please contact myself Pat McLennan or any group member for any information. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 7pm from September till May. We are about to sort out our syllabus for after the summer so as they say "watch this space".

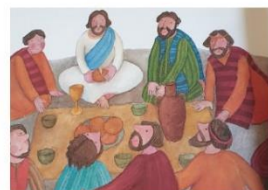
|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
|  | <p><b>HALLKEEPER/ CHURCH OFFICER<br/>REQUIRED</b></p> <p>For King Edward Community Hall<br/>and King Edward Parish Church</p> <p>For further information please email:<br/><a href="mailto:kingedwardcommunityhall@gmail.com">kingedwardcommunityhall@gmail.com</a></p> |  |
|--|---|--|

## Easter Holidays

Karen Cumming

The children's holiday events started with an Easter Egg Hunt, where they had to find an egg in the shop windows and complete the Easter message. Our winners were announced at the Banff Primary school Easter service, they were Skyler Winton, Megan Forbes (under 14), Helen Clark & Irene Cheyne – we hope you all enjoyed your Easter eggs! We would like to thank all who took part, especially the shopkeepers in our community who agreed to display our eggs.

Another hunt was done but this time through in the church during our Easter activity morning. Once found the children opened the eggs to find a surprise



inside - a symbol of Jesus' journey to the cross. They all did a great job retelling the Easter story. Everyone enjoyed their morning of sharing together the real

meaning of Easter through video clips, crafts and snack. As some may have seen the chalk crosses looked great in the church.

The picture is of Megan doing the walking on eggs challenge. The children all had a turn to walk on eggs to see if they cracked and next up was myself and Ian Cameron...this was going to be fun! With bated breath the children waited to hear the eggs crack under our feet but to their amazement (and ours) every egg was still ok. This showed us how strong the shells protection is to what is inside, we then spoke about how God protects us and cares for us...even in the most impossible situations.

We had a lovely morning serving the community at our Hot Cross Bun cafe. Plenty of chat from the grown-ups and giggles coming from the kiddies corner. Thank you to those who came along and supported us.

The families enjoyed their time with us on Palm Sunday where we had a morning of worship, crafts and finished off with a pancake brunch.

Our KidZone choir made me so proud at our Easter Sunday service, the children were amazing!! We have lots of fun during singing space at KidZone and I'm sure this will not be the last we'll hear them in church. Vera's already started a list for Christmas, funny they all laugh when I ask if I can sing a solo...not sure why though!!

A big thank you to all those who helped before, during and after my events, I couldn't do it without you all.

Blessings,

Karen.

## **Christian Aid Lunches**

Mary Cameron

A thank you to all who came to support us at the Christian Aid Lunches. Sheila and I were very grateful for all the help we received to make this venture such a success. A total of £1,100 was donated to Christian Aid.



*Jenni Lee of the Methodist Church has outlined in her article below her experiences of support for school pupils through the **Its Your Move** initiative which she undertook recently along with Pastor Robb McArthur and Maureen Watt of the River Church, as well as what Banff Churches Together means to her.*

## **It's Your Move**

Banff Churches Together is a group of people representing each of the churches in Banff who seek to serve God, each other and the Community in prayer, friendship and fellowship and seeks to demonstrate unity in diversity through the activities that they do in relation to the Community.

For almost twenty years Banff Churches Together have been visible in the community through a number of activities including the Good Friday Walk of Witness, Carol singing, organization and contributions to the Remembrance Day Service in the Parish Church, Pilgrimage events, contributions by members to the Community Council and through the Chaplaincy the minister's input into Banff Academy.

It's Your Move is one of the initiatives that has been going for a number of years designed to support the young people transitioning from Banff Primary School to Banff Academy and in some cases other local Academies.

Banff Churches Together has been privileged to be invited to send in two teams to speak to the P7 classes through a power point presentation and the distribution of the Scripture Union book 'It's Your Move'. This publication is a great informative book which speaks about new beginnings and has 40 top tips for a new start at a new school as these young people venture forth into uncharted and challenging waters as they progress to another stage in their education and life.

The young people enjoy the fun quiz designed to see how ready they are for their new school, other puzzles and the two stories from the Bible written in easy to understand language which focus on the issue of jealousy, Joseph and his brothers, and being confident to do what is right in a difficult situation; the account of Jonathan and Paul from Acts. Perhaps advice that we all would benefit from not just the young people!

The members of Banff Churches Together work quietly and conscientiously in dedicated support of the community through the valuable work that they do.

Jenny Lee, Methodist Church

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. Andy Smith, Banff**

**Mr. Idris Pickens, Banff**

**Dr. Norman Allan, Banff**

**Mr. David Clark, Ardersier**

**Mr. James Foot, King Edward**

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

~~~~~

*We are delighted to welcome into our Church family:*

**Miss Catriona Lillie (by baptism)**

**Mr. Angus Lillie (by profession of faith)**

~~~~~

## Ministry of Flowers

The June flowers are donated by Joyce Millar, Jim & Alison Buchan, Stephen Pratt, Peter & Moira Ingram and Isabel Angus.

July’s flowers are donated by Fran Ferguson and Georgie Paterson. The other two Sundays are at King Edward.





**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

*Contact details have been removed from the online version for reasons of data protection. If you require this information please consult a printed copy in the church or contact the church office.*

*We hope to have these details available in the next online version.*

# **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**

|                        |                 |        |                     |
|------------------------|-----------------|--------|---------------------|
| Cream Teas             | Sun. 2nd June   | 2-4pm  | King Edward Hall    |
| Messy Church BBQ       | Fri. 14th June  | 5pm    |                     |
| Thrift Shop            | 10th-13th July  |        | Banff Church Hall   |
| German Orchestra       | Wed. 24th July  |        | Banff Parish Church |
| Mad Hatter's Tea Party | Fri. 20th Sept. | 5.30pm | Banff Church Hall   |
|                        | Sat. 21st Sept. | 1.30pm | Banff Church Hall   |

**\*Details of SUMMER CLUB coming soon! Look out on Facebook and the weekly bulletin for more information\***

## **Regular Activities**

### Weekly:

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

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