# The Bridge

March/April/May 2021



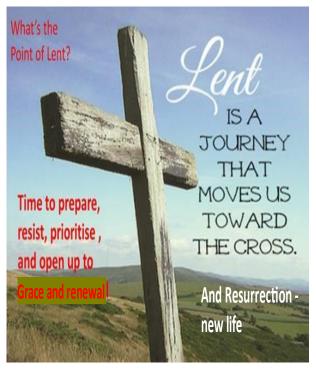


Banff & King Edward Parish Churches www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

## Dear Friends,

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? 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; 8-9]

Most of you will have seen my recent letter to our congregations, indicating my intention to step down as Minister here when the pandemic environment permits – perhaps in June. I and my family have prayed about this long and hard and God seems to be telling us that our time for helping our congregations and communities here is drawing to a close and others must take up the challenge to move our churches forward in the fresh ways that are needed and wanted after the pandemic is over. The pandemic has changed life as we knew it a lot, and that applies equally to churches around the land. Just as after the second world war churches adapted to change, the way forward here will reflect a new balance between old and new, and it will need everyone who has been involved in the church and others from the community, getting involved and doing their bit to help find that balance. Please don't stay out of contact but help our church in the task of rebuilding worship, service and care to meet the needs of the changing future for our community.



I was thinking about how the people of God under Moses wandered for 40 years through the desert, making many mistakes and wandering off course. I used to wonder, how could they? I think from the past year and its ups and downs, I have a little more understanding. As a people it's not been a straight path from a year ago to where we are, but we are hopefully now getting closer to where we should be for fresh life to begin. The words at the start of this letter are those Joshua gave to the people as they approached their new start, and they are good words for us now.

Hopefully we can all now start to see a way forward emerging through the pandemic, with vaccinations widespread, the virus seemingly having peaked and government announcing tentative reopening timetables. We are in the time of

Lent, remembering when Jesus journeyed through the desert and was tested to his limits. Many of us have been tested to our limits this past year – losing loved ones, illnesses, not getting much-needed operations, isolation, loneliness and feeling low, unable to get out and do the things we enjoy and meet the people we value. It's been hard. But somehow we seem to be nearing the end of the worst stages and there is new hope.

The church will hopefully be able to reopen again in coming months in a better way than before. Participating in church services in the autumn with limited numbers, masks, no singing or socialising, was not the joyful experience we had hoped for. So let's pray for regulations allowing fuller, better reopening in church soon. At this time, Easter opening is not certain, but we will be open online – King Edward Primary is already planning contributions for Palm Sunday, following their

greatly admired and widely watched contributions for Christmas.

#### There are signs of hope for the future.

We have continued active in many, many ways – for example, our outside church displays at Christmas made a positive difference in the community and the front cover shows some of the many prayer stars people put up on the prayer tree. A considerable congregation



of church members and others have been enjoying our online services both directly and also by dialling in by phone; so do join us if you can – phone details are at the back of the Bridge. Our online chats for both churches have also been much enjoyed with folk from both churches meeting up for coffee by zoom at the times we used to chat after church. Each gathering lasts strictly 30 minutes so none get bored; if you can manage to these, please do. People have also enjoyed watching on our Facebook page local developments, activities and inspirational thoughts; inside the Bridge you can read about two grannies who in particular inspired many – well done to Alice McPherson on reaching 100 and still so spirited and active. And well done to Monica Menzies our King Edward snow queen who had over 2700 people watching online her sledging antics on a sofa.

It is not time for me to say farewell – there should be another Bridge edition before we depart – so for now may Easter Resurrection hope carry you through to the better days to come. You are in my prayers.



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

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# Thank you, Tom!

Where does the time go? They say it flies when you're having fun. Well that's certainly the case for our bus driver, Tom. Mr McLennan, to give him his proper title, has decided to retire from his post as volunteer driver after 20 years. Tom has given up his time on Sunday mornings on a regular basis for



all those years to transport members of our congregation to our church services. He has also of course, been part of a rota of volunteer drivers. His fellow drivers will miss him as a dependable and cheerful part of their team as well as the ladies who assist the passengers.

The passengers on the bus, all ladies as it happens, will be particularly sad to see him leave. They have enjoyed his cheerful disposition and repartee for so long, it will take a while to get used to him not being part of the team of drivers. His ladies describe him best I think. "He's an affa Tom" as they would put it. Although we will miss him on the bus, we look forward to seeing Tom around the church carrying out his other voluntary duties as required. Thank you, Tom, for a job well done from all concerned. We look forward to seeing you in more normal times and being able to say so in person.

Do you have a story to tell? Crafts, recipes, faith, life...whatever it is, we'd love to hear from you! We are very happy to accept articles from anyone and we would love to hear from you. Send your contributions to TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com or pop them through a church letterbox.

# It Happened at Christmas Time

It was a few weeks before Christmas in 1938 when my father retired from his Chief Marine Engineer occupation on board the P&O passenger liner, Razmak, to take up an engineering management post with the Appleby-Frodingham Steel Company in Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. This meant a domestic re-location from our home in Smithfield Road, Aberdeen, to a house, just weeks away from completion, in the Old Brumby outskirts of Scunthorpe. While we waited for access to our new house we were accommodated in the rooms of a multi-story house in the town. I was only three and a half years old at the time, so it was quite an adventure and really exciting; more so as Christmas was fast approaching.

Having been plucked from my Aberdeen home and the warm cluster of close relatives in the North East, I soon learnt that no-one in the English community could understand me when I spoke in the only language I knew - Doric. I was once accused of speaking 'Double Dutch'.

This led to an amusing incident (though not amusing at the time) when, one Friday afternoon on Scunthorpe High Street during the week before Christmas when the shops and pavements were jam-packed with Christmas shoppers, my mother and I, on the weekly Friday afternoon shopping trip, were stopped in our tracks by a policeman. At the time I thought he was wearing what appeared to be a funny round topped helmet like a fireman's helmet, not a flat cap like the bobbies I was used to seeing back in Aberdeen.

After what seemed like ages in conversation, he and my mother shook hands and laughed as we went on our way. I hadn't a clue what they had been speaking about until later that evening my mother recounted in Doric the incident to my father.

Apparently, someone in the crowd had overheard my mother and I conversing in broad Doric and mistakenly thought we were Germans. Bear in mind we were at the cusp of being at war with Germany, hence folk were ultra-sensitive to the possibility of German spies or sympathisers in their midst.

Then, the long-awaited Christmas day arrived. We sat down with the family and owners of our lodging house to a sumptuous Christmas dinner, the magnitude and likes of which I had never seen before. When the meal finally came to an end and the adults were joined in singing in a room full of cigar smoke, I was allowed to leave the table and play underneath amid a forest of knees and legs with my Christmas Dinky toy presents of a car and Spitfire aeroplane.

Then it happened! My joyous Christmas was over. With an almighty yell that could have been heard back in Aberdeen, I knelt on an up-turned drawing pin that had been lost in the hanging of the decorations. That was so, so painful.

With the soothing of gentle maternal nursing, the pin was removed and with more helpings of jelly and trifle, I eventually calmed down and lived to see another day – and recount the event.

# Easter Egg Hunt

- $^{"}_{\mu}$  Easter is on its way!
- How many eggs can you find in this issue of The Bridge?

**까===========**:

, Answer on page 22.



In our Autumn 2020 issue we printed a tribute to Vera from King Edward Kirk Session and congregation, and her note of thanks. A gift from Banff Kirk Session and congregation was delivered to Vera over the Christmas and New Year period. Vera has asked that we pass on her thanks to all at Banff who contributed to the beautiful ceramic bowl and very generous cheque. In her own words...

...A huge surprise but very gratefully received. I wasn't looking for anything because everyone had been so kind to me while I was there, but I really do want to say thank you for this latest kindness.

I can't believe I'm already six months into my retirement. I don't know where the time has gone...and I hope we all find that 2021 is a better year than 2020. Many thanks once again to the people at Banff.

Peace and blessings.

Vera.

Here is a light-hearted contribution to The Bridge suggested by Hazel Gordon – should bring a smile to our faces in these trying times. Thank you, Hazel!



#### The Kirk Moose

I'm a wee kirk moose an' I haven't got a name, But thon muckle kirk at the corner is ma hame, Wi' the cock on the steeple an' the bell that gangs "D-I-N-G!"

An' I wish that I was big enough to gaur it gie a ring.

I can sing a' the psalms, I can say a' the prayers, An' I whiles do a dance up an' doon the pulpit stairs. I ken a' the texts, I can find them in the Book, An' there's mony a human-bein' wi' nae notion where to look.

When the meenister says "Firstly" an' the folk a' settle doon, I gang creepin'-creepin' in amang their Sunday shoon; An' I'm wishin', as I'm jinkin' frae the passage to the pew That they'll mebbe drop a pandrop or a peppermint to chew.

For I'm sometimes awfu' hungry, an' there's naethin' much to eat Except the paraphrases or a hymn-book for a treat. I've eaten the Auld Hunner, I've chowed Beatitudes, But I canna say I've found them just the tastiest o' food.

I'm a wee kirk moose an' I haven't got a name, But I'm really quite contented, it's just ma empty waim So I'm hopin' that some Sunday, wad ye mind aboot me, please?

An' bring me in your bible just a wee bit taste o' cheese.







Is 'syntax' a financial penalty one has to pay for breaching social etiquette?

# **Snippets from Banff Kirk Session**

#### Meeting 30 September 2020

- It was agreed that Banff Academy should be informed that the Church would be available to them as an evacuation point. The hall could also be used at the Head Teacher's discretion.
- The list received from the Communication Group of all that had been achieved in the past 6 months was very encouraging and positive. It showed that Banff Parish Church was alive and reaching out to everyone in the community.

#### Meeting 28 October 2020

- Banff Academy has asked for names of people that might appreciate a letter from pupils.
- By using almost the same service in church and on-line it was felt that there was a connection to everyone listening.
- David had received a lovely letter from Doocot View to say how much residents were enjoying the on-line services.

#### **Meeting 2nd December 2020**

- The Poppy Cross outside the Church was a great success, with the large poppies making a strong statement. It is encouraging to see young people engaging with Remembrance events. The sum of £210 was raised and sent to the British Poppy Appeal.
- The CFW group will be having a toddlers Nativity Hunt at Duff House. They will search for pictures of the Nativity and also do some colouring. The group are also distributing "Bags of Joy" to families, one for themselves and one to pass on.
- A dedicated Elder, Joyce Millar, was appointed to have particular responsibility for families.

#### Meeting 13 January 2021

- We should carry on with on-line services supplemented by the phone-in service and CD recordings.
- Friendship group and Book Club will continue to meet on Zoom.
- Session agreed that we should try to have a "coffee and chat" time as we
  would normally do after a service. This has been done successfully by other
  Churches. Notice will be posted on Facebook and anyone who responds will be
  sent an invite.
- In line with elders' informal feedback, given the circumstances of the new lockdown, Session agreed that our Memorial Service should be on-line with a physical one at a later date.

## Gavin Elrick – a great friend, farmer and consultant

From The Scottish Farmer 16th January

The farming community lost a great friend, farmer and SAC Consulting specialist with the sudden death of Gavin Elrick, near the end of 2020.

Born Robert Gavin Elrick in 1961 to Robin and Jean Elrick, he grew up in King Edward with his younger sister, Shona.



In 1985, he married Carol at Cullen Old Parish Church. Their daughter, Lauren, was born in 1993, followed by sons, Nathan, in 1995, and Ellis, in 1998. More important than anything to Gavin was his family and he cherished the time they all spent together.

After his parents retired in 1996, Gavin and Carol moved into the family farmhouse at the 120-acre Mains of Blackton to take over its running. Gavin never really wanted to be anywhere else.

He did, however, enjoy family holidays (which usually involved checking out the local agriculture and taking photos of old tractors).

Not only did he farm at Mains of Blackton, near King Edward, but he was a senior environmental consultant based in SAC Consulting's Turriff office. He spent 36 years in the sector and was a most respected figure in his field.

Gavin had an abiding passion for farming issues and enjoyed sharing his knowledge with colleagues and farmers. He always had time for everyone, really listening with full attention, generous with his time and advice, and respected and depended on by all who knew him.

Earlier in his career, Gavin achieved an HND in Agriculture from the North of Scotland College of Agriculture (now part of Scotland's Rural College) in 1982. After graduation, he worked on farms in New Zealand and toured Australia with friends.

On returning to the UK, he worked at Kerrowaird dairy farm, in Croy, before joining the North of Scotland College of Agriculture as a land drainage and soils technician in 1984. He taught HND and BSc Agricultural courses on the use of surveying techniques to design efficient land drainage.

In February 1991, he was promoted to be a land survey consultant with the college. He was also part of the college's 'Greens of Scotland' team which worked on golf course design in Majorca, Germany, England, and Scotland. He also visited Croatia, providing advice to its Ministry of Agriculture.

His drive and commitment to learning saw him achieve an honours degree in technology from the Open University, 1986-1994.

From April 2000, Gavin became senior environmental consultant for SAC Consulting and in 2005 became a 'Chartered Environmentalist' and gained a postgraduate diploma in agribusiness management in 2006. He was also a member of the Institute of Agricultural Engineers.

From 2010, Gavin worked out of the Turriff office where his management and organisational skills came to the fore with the BASIS-introduced FACTS nutrient management planning course, organising two courses a year until 2018.

From his work on the Elgin flood alleviation scheme, to his role in the development of the AWPR, the dualling of the A96 and helping to design golf courses, Gavin helped to improve the lives of many people.

He was also a former chairman of King Edward Primary PTA and King Edward Hall Committee, a church elder, a Turriff Rotarian and a member of the Turriff Show committee.

Gavin really touched the lives of so many, in so many little (and not so little) ways. He will be missed by all his colleagues and friends. For the family, however, their greatest achievement was having him in their lives, and he will be irreplaceable.

**David adds**; Gavin is so very much missed by everyone in our church where he was such a capable and valued Elder. His wisdom, humour, good sense and faith made such a difference whether it was in participating in services or meetings, caring for folk, farming our glebe, or participating in church humorous sketches. Gavin was much loved and is sorely missed.

**King Edward church needs a little help.** We are seeking help with our administration. We are looking for someone with administration and normal computer skills to help the church's management body – the Kirk Session – in its leadership of the church. It's a voluntary post where church elders would provide so



church. It's a voluntary post where church elders would provide support and guidance. It involves dealing with email and other correspondence, distributing to elders to act on them, and liaising with the central church at times. Also involves attending a monthly evening meeting, and requires developing an understanding of how the church works.

Please contact the minister or any elder if interested.

## Introducing...Stuart Law (CSgt S Law MSM GOCNIC RM)

When I left school in the early 1960s I had no thoughts of joining the Marines although I did come from a military family. I was working on a farm along with a man called Big Willie who was doing the same job as me but was getting more than me. I asked for a rise but was told that Willie was older than me and I wasn't getting a rise. I gave up the job and went off to join the Navy.

I turned up at the recruitment office in a leather jacket, long hair and a motor bike. I was asked what I wanted to be and I said "a Sparkie." I had passed all the exams but they told me that they were only recruiting Able Seamen. The Recruiting Officer suggested I speak to a Marine and he pointed to a man who was recruiting for the Marines. He showed me a brochure which was very



appealing to me: lots to eat and I took the paperwork home to show to my Mum. My Dad then came in and said, "you're not joining the leather necks." That is exactly what I did.

I had never been out of Scotland before but I made my way down to London. From there I went to Depot Deal in Kent for 16 weeks initial training and I passed out in 1965 as a Royal Marine. Out of 60 recruits who started the course only 11 passed out at that time.

I then moved to Lympstone, Devon, for Commando training and passed out in July 1965.

My 1st draft was to 40 Commando Malaya where I experienced jungle warfare in Borneo for 4 months. A few of my comrades were lost at that time. That was something that I had to endure throughout my career, but my strong faith has carried me through.

My next posting was another tour of Borneo taking in Malaya (as it was called in those days) and Singapore. Then I came back to Plymouth where I met Beryl whom I married in 1968.

Look out for more **Stories with Stuart** in future issues.



#### Remember the 'Son'flowers???



Banff Parish Church lately received a donation in thanks for the sunflower seeds posted out to someone in Elgin.

In the letter expressing thanks for the seeds, the person said:

"Our Son Flower was huge and had seven small

flowers growing up the stem. We called them the Disciples – lovely show."

What a wonderful image of the disciples clinging close to the Son: the closer we grow up or live alongside Jesus, the more we too will show up well.









#### The 'I Don't Want To Go To Church!' Joke

A mother went to wake her son for church one Sunday morning. When she knocked on his door, he said, "I'm not going!"

"Why not?" asked his mother.

"I'll give you two good reasons," he said. "One, they don't like me. Two,
I don't like them."



His mother replied, "I'll give you two good reasons why YOU WILL go to church.
One, you're 47 years old.
Two, you're the pastor!"

#### **Election Guidance**

Jim Buchan

The next elections to the Scottish Parliament are scheduled to be held on 6 May 2021, when, all else being equal, our Hall will once again host the Polling Stations serving the town of Banff. And I will (probably for the last time) step out of retirement to act as an Election Officer for the Banffshire and Buchan Coast Constituency.

Except that, as we know, all else is not equal. The Scottish Government has enacted wide powers to alter the arrangements – such as moving or extending Polling Day, reviewing polling places or making the elections all-postal.

So, things could well change. Round about the middle of March, everyone registered to vote should receive in the post a formal Poll Card, confirming the election date and your allocated polling place. Please read this carefully, in case there have been any last-minute changes.

From my point of view as an election administrator, I am anticipating that in the current pandemic, more voters will opt for postal voting. To put this in context, at the 2016 election, about 11,500 - making up 20% of the Banffshire and Buchan Coast electorate - were postal voters. This time round, I think there will be a lot more — possibly as much as double.

If you are already registered as a postal voter, then you do not need to do anything. The card you receive in March will be a Postal Poll Card. If, however, you are registered as an in-person voter, and you would prefer to vote by post, then you will need to contact the Electoral Registration Office (the contact details will be on the card). The deadline for applying for a postal vote is 5:00pm on Tuesday 20 April – but please do not leave it until the last minute!

So, if you are a postal voter, here are some things to look out for-

#### **Instructions**

Your postal voting pack will include a sheet of instructions. Please read these carefully before doing anything else. The instructions will have, at the top, words to this effect: -

If you need help, please call us on [Helpline Number]

Do not hesitate to use this helpline if you are in any doubt. As an election administrator, I would rather spend time talking a postal voter through the formalities and getting it right, than reject a ballot paper for want of due process.

#### Two Ballot Papers

The Scottish Parliament is elected by the "additional member system" of proportional representation. This means you are voting for a Member of the

Scottish Parliament (MSP) for the Banffshire and Buchan Coast Constituency. You will have a ballot paper for this purpose, showing the candidates, listed alphabetically by surname, along with their political party name and logo.

Banffshire and Buchan Coast is one of the constituencies in the North East Scotland Region. The Region is allocated seven additional MSP seats, according to the proportion of votes cast for the respective parties. You will have a second ballot paper for this purpose, showing only the political parties, listed alphabetically. This ballot paper may show individual candidates who have decided to stand as "independents".

You have a vote on each ballot paper – by means of the time-honoured  $\overline{\mathbf{X}}$ .

Place the completed ballot papers in the return envelope, which is in your pack, marked "A" and addressed to the Returning Officer. And, contrary to a popular misconception, you are allowed to fold your ballot papers.

Note that one side of the "A" envelope has your name and address; the other is addressed to the Returning Officer at St Leonard's in Sandyhill Road. This is important: see below.

#### **Postal Voting Statement**

Your "A" envelope has, attached to it, a form called the Postal Voting Statement (PVS). This is a safeguard against electoral fraud, so without it, your vote will not be counted.

The Electoral Registration Office holds your Personal Identifiers:

Your signature

Your Date of Birth

There are three basic pitfalls: -



For your vote to count, the signature on your PVS must match the signature held on record.

A common error here is the voter's name written on the PVS in block capitals, as against a scripted signature on record (or vice versa). So, please be careful to use your normal signature at all times.

Another issue arises where the voter – due to accident or infirmity – is unable to sign the PVS. Unfortunately, the election staff checking the signature are not allowed any discretion, so if you are in this position, you should, without delay, contact the Electoral Registration Office (the number is on your Poll Card) and enquire about applying for a "waiver".



#### 2. Mismatched Date of Birth.

The most common error here is where the voter inadvertently writes in today's date instead of their date of birth.

So, please be vigilant, and make sure to insert your correct date of birth.

#### 3. Mix-and-(Mis)match.

It sometimes happens where different people in the household – husband and wife, say – are completing their packs together. This can be disastrous if, for example, the voters have swapped their ballot papers, and put them in the wrong envelope. If, hypothetically, one of the PVSs is rejected, the ballot papers in the rejected "A" envelope will also be immediately rejected.

So, please be vigilant. This is why the instructions say not to detach the PVS from the "A" envelope.

Finally, before you seal up the Return ("B") envelope, please, please, please double-check that the side of the "A" envelope with the Returning Officer's address is showing, and not yours. Otherwise, the envelope will come back to you.

As I said above, there is an Election Helpline number included in the pack. Please don't hesitate to use it.

# **Happy Birthday Alice!**



Happy 100th Birthday to Alice from Longmanhill. Lord Lieutenant Andy Simpson was delighted to visit Alice with a card and flowers on her special day. Alice also received a birthday card from HM The Queen. An amazing, lovely lady at 100, she was normally still at King Edward church every Sunday till lockdown, encouraging us all. She also got cards, flowers and a visit from the church.

Banff Churches Together (BACAC) continue to meet on a bi-monthly basis with the Chair and Secretary's roles alternating. The group were delighted to welcome John Gow, the newly appointed Minister at Portsoy Church of Scotland, who, after a career in journalism, retrained for the Ministry. At the last meeting on 28th January, the group shared the good news of what has been happening in their churches to include a number of new trainee Ministers in the Episcopal Church, adult baptisms requested by the Harvest Centre, the excellent on-going work carried out by food banks in Banff and Gamrie through the churches, and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Churches priest, Father Piotor, having had the honour of addressing the Scottish Parliament recently on his theme of inclusiveness.



consider.

All agreed that Christmas activities had been successful with many positives, as a result. However, due to the current lockdown, many churches had resumed online communications via Facebook or YouTube for services and meetings, plus on the first Sunday of the month, Deveron FM will broadcast a service. Obviously, many

challenges face local churches with important events having to be rescheduled or postponed. Father Piotor for example, highlighted how April 2021 would have marked the 700th anniversary of the Carmelites arriving in Banff and various events including a pilgrimage had to be postponed. Pastoral care also was an issue concerning many, due to churches being closed and the Rector of Banff Academy, Alan Horbury informed chaplains there is a lot of concern amongst staff and parents over the wellbeing of children.

Another important anniversary was also highlighted at the November meeting by local historian Alistair Mason. In July 1871, St Andrews in Banff installed a new organ which generated a lot of interest with people applying to learn to play. Jessie Seymour Irvine was such a person and she was the daughter of the parish Minister of Crimond. A task was set to the new students to compose a psalm tune in common metre and Jessie composed 'Crimond'. The first public performance was in Banff 150 years ago and it is probably the best-known metrical psalm in the world. Alistair is hoping that this can be celebrated in some form and presented various ideas to BACAC to

The next meeting will take place on 25th March.

# **1st Banff Boys Brigade**

Ian Cameron (Captain)

What a year it turned out to be. The year 2020 has certainly had a huge impact on

our Company with the Coronavirus Pandemic.

We were unable to finish the last session with no Display, no Camps, and no presentation of awards. We have 7 Queens Badge boys and 1 Presidents Badge boy, who are awaiting a suitable time for presentation.

Our 2020/21 session was late in starting due to the restrictions. We were unable to have an Enrolment Parade or Remembrance Service. Our Juniors and

Anchor Boys painted stones and they were laid on the cross at the church.





We were restricted from Band playing, no Physical activities and no Drill. The only Battalion competition we were allowed to take part in was the Xmas Colouring Competition for Juniors & Anchors. We had one 1st & five 2nds. Well done to the winners.

Since Xmas we have been setting challenges for the boys, to be done at home. We have had many excellent results in Lego building, baking, help at

home which consisted of bed making, tidying their bedrooms, hoovering and

washing dishes. They also had to design a Valentine card and make up a verse. The North Scottish Easter Competition was to colour and design a BB jumper which the Boys are in process of completing.

We look forward very much to normal times in order that we may meet again. If any young boys are interested in joining our Company you will be made most welcome. Tel. Ian on Banff 812716.



# **Grannie Monica Goes Sledging!**



King Edward church member Monica Menzies became an overnight star when a video of her sledging was shown on our church Facebook page. Entitled 'the snow queen of Clochforbie and King Edward; grannie Monica goes sledging on sofa and old car bits' – she was being pulled along at speed by son Jamie in his farm quad bike; we saw it first at our church zoom coffee chat on Sunday 14th February.

For more stories, videos, services and support, visit our Facebook page or website. Here's an easy new way to access them: if you have a smartphone, just hold your phone camera over one of the QR codes below, and the page should open in your browser. Don't forget to share your own stories or resources and let us know what you think!



# **WEBSITE**

www.banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

# **FACEBOOK**

**Banff and King Edward Parish Churches** 



Books Abroad Irene Finlayson

Books Abroad, a registered Scottish Charity, has found the first year of trading in its bookshop in Banff High Street a big success, thanks to the efforts of Gary McGregor volunteer Manager. Many regular customers, drop ins and visitors are making use of the large variety of reading materials on sale for very low prices. Gary and his group of volunteers offer a friendly, welcome service and during lockdown he has expanded into online sales. Regular notices on Facebook and Shop Local pages keep the public aware of activities and offers. A partnership with Banff Rotary saw, in the weeks leading up to Christmas, free books being given away to encourage reading in the local community.

Due to current restrictions, the main warehouse based on the Industrial Estate in Rhynie is currently closed to volunteers. However, just prior to Christmas two containers holding 50,000 books each were dispatched to Zimbabwe and Sri Lanka and both have arrived safely. Trustees of the charity meet online monthly via zoom and at present are having to make the decision to remain in Rhynie or move to new premises as the current warehouse is no longer fit for purpose. The acting Chair, Vinay Ruparelia, is researching possibilities at present.

A full programme for 2021 dispatches overseas has been compiled

for when work can commence again once lockdown measures are eased.



# **Understanding the English language**

**Keith Donald** 

In my model making pursuit, I normally use an airbrush (a miniature air driven spray gun) to apply my paint finishes. To get the best finish the air pressure and paint thickness have to be just right.

One day, I was demonstrating my technique to a German friend and detailing how I obtained the best thinners/paint mixture for an even spray. I described how I place two or three drops of thinners into the airbrush cup followed by the same amount of paint. I went on to explain, "If the mixture appears to be a bit too thin, I add a smidgin more paint". "Vot is a smidgin?", he asked. My answer was, "Two shakes of a lamb's tail."

Holding his hands in the air, he replied, "I vill nefer understand these English!"

**QED** 



Banff Rotary Irene Finlayson

Like many organisations, Banff Rotary has adapted to weekly online zoom meetings since last March, despite several clubs in the district not meeting. Several large-scale events had to be postponed in 2019/20 and it is hoped these may be possible 2021/22. With the majority of its members being in the vulnerable age bracket, activities have been limited, though younger members have been active during both lockdowns in assisting with and donating to the local food bank, delivering online prescriptions or telephoning people.

Two collections for charities were still possible in November, the first at the Spotty Bag Shop to raise funds for eradicating polio during Purple4Polio week, and the second involving Janet Anderson participating in the Marie Curie Kilt Walk. Schools also received purple crocus bulbs to plant. In addition, members of Banff Rotary have been serving on several community project committees such as the Phoenix Fund, The Vinery and the Coastal Paths Walk initiative and hope to participate in their on-going development. As we look forward to spring and summer the whole club is planning a socially distanced participation in the Kilt Walk, holding its Classic Car Event in July and organising a photography competition for school aged children.



HA Definition of an expert:
An ex is a has-been. An xpert
(spurt) is a drip under pressure.

#### An Ode

I won't arise and go now, and go to Innisfree.
I'll sanitise the doorknob and make a cup of tea,
I won't go down to the sea again, I won't go out at all,
I'll wander lonely as a cloud from the kitchen to the hall.

There's a green-eyed yellow monster to the North of Kathmandu,
But I shan't be seeing him just yet and, nor I think, will you.
While the dawn comes up like thunder on the road to Mandalay,
I'll make my bit of supper and eat it off a tray.
I shall not speed my bonnie boat across the sea to Skye
Or take the rolling road from Kent to Rye.

About the woodland, just right now.

I am not free to go to see the Keep Out posters

Nor the cherry tree hung with snow

And 'No' I won't be travelling much within the realms of gold

Or get to Southampton, all that's been put on hold.

'Give me your hands' - I shan't request, albeit we are friends, Nor come within a mile of you, until this nightmare ends!

Anon!

The deadline for the June/July/August issue of the Bridge is 5pm on Thursday 20th May. 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.

Mrs Jean Hay, Banff.

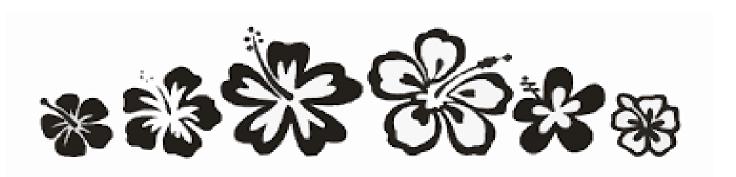
Mrs Isobel Smith, Banff.

Mr George Daniel, Croyden.

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

# Ministry of Flowers

The flower team are so sorry that we cannot distribute flowers just now. We have missed arranging the flowers in the church and then sending them out to folks after the service as we know that they are much appreciated. 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.



If you would like to receive your Bridge by email rather than have it delivered, please email <a href="mailto:info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk">info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk</a> and ask to be added to the email distribution list.

**Easter Egg Hunt**: There are 17 eggs hidden in these pages. Did you count them all?

# 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: <u>TheBri</u>	dgeBAKE@outlook.com
Children and Families contact	email: childrenandfamiliesbanffparis	hchurch@outlook.com
Organist	Mr. Stephen Pratt	833113
Church Secretary	Mrs. Janet Simpson	818211
Life and Work Convener	Mrs. Moira Ingram	812393
Flower Convener	Mrs. Pat McLennan	
Resources Group Clerk	Mrs. Irene Tewnion	
Treasurer	Mr. James Millar	498134
FWO Treasurer	Mrs. Moira Gess	
Church Office	info@banffparishchurchofscotland.c	<u>co.uk</u> 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**

28th March Palm Sunday Service with participation Available online and by

from King Edward Primary School telephone (see below)

1st April Maundy Thursday communion Available online and by

telephone (see below)

# Look out for more information about Easter services and activities coming soon.



# **Regular Activities**

Coffee and Chat Every Sunday King Edward 10.30am By Zoom: contact church

Banff 12.15pm office for more information

Friendship Group Tuesday 2nd March 7pm By Zoom: contact church

Tuesday 16th March office for more information

Tuesday 6th April
Tuesday 20th April

Book Club Thursday 25th March 2.30pm By Zoom: contact church

Thursday 29th April office for more information

Thursday 27th May

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

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

Each week our Minister is recording a 30-45 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

You can also listen to our services on a landline by dialling **01261 303464**. The cost would be as for a normal local phone call of that length.

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