

The Bridge

October/November 2019



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

Dear Friends in Banff and King Edward

But now the Lord who created you, O Israel, says: Don't be afraid, for I have ransomed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you go through deep waters and great trouble, I will be with you. When you go through rivers of difficulty, you will not drown!... For I am the Lord your God, your Saviour, the Holy One of Israel [Isaiah 43 v1-3].

I was thinking of these words, as **the rains came down heavily** last weekend. Bridges closed, fields flooded, roads broken up, travel arrangements wiped out and more – no doubt many problems for farmers, businesses, people; church services were affected – the presbytery's praise night had to be postponed.



I was on standby to take over from Vera for Sunday services if she could not get through, but she bravely made it – as did many to church one way or another.

Often when major problems occur, we wonder at the time how we are going to get through this, but somehow make it through, and sometimes can look back later and see how God helped us,

encouraged us, supported us, often through people around us, and gave us Spirit to keep going. Yes there are times insoluble disaster happens, in our or loved ones' lives, or in our community, but that is the nature of the world we live in; floods do happen, evil or illness does occur. But we can trust that whatever we are facing, God will be with us, if we let Him accompany us, listen for guidance and share together. We can think of the times Jesus calmed disciples in storms by His presence and guidance, and they journeyed forwards together.



I hope our farmers at this **harvest time** were not too seriously affected; and that much of the harvest was got in one way or another? On Sunday coming we celebrate harvest, and however it has been this year, we thank God for the blessings we have been given, ask His help for the troubles yet to come, and

seek to share his bounties with others. This year in our school harvest assembly at King Edward and in messy church in Banff we thought about the issues that are human in origin, especially climate change, and how it's for all of us to respond and do our bit.

On the cover are two photos of people who have responded positively in different ways to challenges. **Eleanor Wilson** has battled cancer bravely and gracefully, and no doubt many other storms which her fisherman husband passed through. Last month Eleanor was rightly awarded the Banff Quaich for outstanding voluntary service to our community. She has been a light for us amidst many a storm and we thank God for her. In a different way, many were uplifted by **KidZone Madhatter's tea party** and show. Such events do not come without a great deal of effort, stress, tension, and more. But like so many such events in church 'it was all right on the night/day' and everyone enjoyed the shows. Hopefully the stresses involved quickly faded into the background, and people remain uplifted by holding on to the good created and shared - for it was memories of such past events that encouraged the efforts this time.

Our churches periodically face mini storms when for example key people retire or leave. Banff will shortly 'lose' **Elinor and Charlie Smith** to their new home further south. It's good news for them and their family, but a sadness for our church as they have been real stalwarts behind much that has gone on for years. Elinor has been an inspiring, hard working Session Clerk leading us forward in many initiatives, and supporting us all in many ways unseen. Charlie has been an excellent chairperson of our children and family work group, safeguarding officer, communion elder and much more. They will be a big loss, and we are praying how best to succeed them, but we thank them wholeheartedly and pray for them all God's blessings. King Edward church also faces periodic storms; and we have just heard that **Eveline Finnie** has decided to retire as an Elder, on account of health grounds. We have greatly valued Eveline's contribution, and are glad she will remain involved in congregational life. We pray God's continued blessing on her and Doug.

Storms will continue to come, in church life, not least because we are all getting older, and we cannot keep running church the way it was. We will have to adapt and see how best to keep sharing God's love in practice. Banff kirk session for example decided not to let current 'storms' deter us, and voted unanimously to progress with our explorations into how best to modernise our church and halls for the future benefit of our church and community, especially generations to come. King Edward Kirk Session in its own way is taking the risk of trying again to have a fun nativity on Christmas eve. Whether we need big or small steps, I hope whatever the weather, you know God's encouragement, strength and Spirit to face whatever lies ahead, trusting **He knows you and will be with you, even when you cannot see Him.**

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

email: veralumsden53@gmail.com

Church Office: 01261 818211

email: info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

Presentation of Banff Quaich to church stalwart

If you've been reading the Banffie recently, you may have spotted a familiar face in the headlines! Eleanor Wilson, well-known in Banff and especially in King Edward church, has been awarded this year's Banff Quaich for outstanding voluntary service in the community.

Eleanor has used her skills and time tirelessly and generously to benefit our communities for over 50 years. For many years she was of course our much-loved organist and choirmistress at King Edward Church, as well as being President of King Edward Guild. She supported King Edward School, leading singing practice with the children every week, as well as playing periodically at Banff Parish Church and regularly in care homes and local hospitals, for choirs, dancing lessons, weddings, funerals and much more.

The quaich was originally donated by Banff Churches Together and so it is particularly wonderful to see it presented to such a valued, faithful and inspiring member of our church and community. Well done and prayerful best wishes to you and your family, Eleanor!



The deadline for the December/January/February issue of the Bridge is 5pm on Thursday 14th November. Please send your contributions to TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com

Buildings Update

This statement was read out in church on two Sundays to update the congregation on action the Kirk Session is taking regarding our buildings. If you have any questions, please speak to one of the church Elders in the first place.

Over the last few months, the Kirk Session and its property committee have been carefully considering the suitability of our church and halls for mission and usage for the future. Plans for minor adaptations to our halls were put on hold as we explored what else needs to be done for the future. There have, for example, been views that our toilets and kitchens and maybe entrances need extensive upgrading.

At the Kirk Session meeting on 4th September, there was unanimous support for taking this further by engaging in an extensive, in-depth professional review of what is required for now and the future. We want to meet the spiritual and worship needs of our church for years to come as well as work in partnership with local organisations to meet identified needs and help create a vibrant community with our church at the centre, recognising Jesus' command to love thy neighbour.

You may ask "What does this mean for now?"

Firstly, we are asking two firms of architects to sketch out possibilities for our church and halls and possible sources of finance. These are firms that have extensive experience of working on church buildings and are recommended by the central Church of Scotland with whom we will continue to work closely. Once this work is completed, we will be considering which of the drawings and options best fits our needs and finances.

Secondly, we are doing a "visioning exercise" to inform any designs for the future. This means that we are asking a broad range of people from our church and from the community for their views on topics such as what does our church stand for, what characteristics would you like to see develop, how can we support community development for all ages etc.

Once we have done this, we will be writing up a first version of any vision so that we can consult widely with our members, church groups and the wider community.

We recognise that communication and creating opportunities for involvement are very important and we will be working on these aspects as we go forward so that everyone can contribute their thoughts.

We would again emphasise that no decisions are yet taken about the detail of what we will be doing; options are to be presented by the architects for the church to decide upon.

That is just a brief summary of where we are now. Our Minister and the Kirk Session recognise that this is a long journey that will require huge amounts of work and effort. The Kirk Session is very excited about the possibilities that this offers and feels that we are following the spirit of the Church of Scotland General Assembly 2019 which challenged us all to follow Jesus by taking radical steps to make sure we witness effectively to our community, and make sure our buildings are equipped to do this well for the future.

Please pray for this that we may all listen carefully for God's voice and God's guidance in our endeavours and that "His Kingdom come and His will be done"

<p>KING EDWARD HALLKEEPER/CHURCH OFFICER UPDATE</p> <p>Cliff and Jayne Pirie have kindly offered to take on the job of Hallkeeper/Church Officer for King Edward Community Hall and King Edward Parish Church until a suitable applicant can be found.</p> <p>If you'd like to book the hall please contact them on 01261 821680 or jaynepirie@hotmail.com</p> <p>Alternatively email kingedwardcommunityhall@gmail.com</p>	
---	--

School Run Café

Karen Cumming

It's lovely to welcome our regular families along with new families back to our groups again after the summer break. Some of our wee ones from Tots have moved on to preschool or school and two of our KidZone boys have moved up to the academy. We would like to wish them well as they begin their exciting journey.

I'm very excited to have started the DROP OFF and DROP IN "SCHOOL RUN CAFÉ" this term.

The café is open for parents and carers in our community whose children are in Preschool, Primary School or the Academy.

We are open from 8.45am until 10am where we have on offer various refreshments, butteries, pancakes and scones for the adults to help themselves to.



I'm sure many of us have spent time standing chatting in the playground once we've dropped the children off at school come rain or shine. If this is you, why not pop in past? Even if your children go off to school on their own come along, all are welcome.



One of our parents told us "It's so nice to just drop the kids off and have some 'mum's time' with a lovely bunch....". Another said "It's good to have adult time". If you would like more information about any of our groups or activities please get in touch.

Karen is planning an activity morning for primary aged children from 10.30am on Thursday 17th October. Look out for more details on FaceBook and in the bulletin.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Come and join us for a **CHRISTMAS ADVENTure** as we celebrate Advent in the run up to Christmas. There will be lots of fun with exciting activities and services – something for everyone, no matter how young or old!



WHEN? Over four weekends before Christmas

WHERE? Banff Church Hall and Church

SATURDAY 30 NOVEMBER 10-12.30

ANGEL CAKE CAFÉ The café will be open for tea/coffee and angel cakes, there will be a craft corner and nativity hunt for children.

CHURCH Nativity Display in the church when we hope to have Nativity Sets of all shapes and sizes on display along with angels from our Knit-an-Angel project.

BUSY HANDS Drop off any angels you have made, see the angels the group, and others, have knitted or bring along your knitting/crocheting/craft project to work on. The kettle will be on and there will be angel cakes too!

ANGELS Find the angels and their message in the shop windows. Dates to be confirmed. Prizes will be awarded.



SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER

SERVICES First Sunday of Advent services in King Edward at 9.30am and Banff at 11am

LANTERN PARADE Banff Parish Church, River Church and Macduff Parish

Church are joining with the Christmas Lights Group for the switching on of the lights at the River Church on the evening of Sunday 1 December. We are planning a lantern parade from the River Church to an outdoor carol service by the bridge which will be led by Deveron River Brass Band.

There will be open 'Make a Lantern' workshops during November (dates to be confirmed). We are delighted Banff Primary, King Edward Primary and the Boys Brigade will be making lanterns and joining us on the parade. If you or any groups you know might like to join us, please get in touch.

SATURDAY 7 DECEMBER 10-12.30

WREATH MAKING Come and make your own Christmas wreath with expert advice from our local florist Jenni (ex-Butterfly Blooms). Please book as spaces will be limited. The cost of the workshop is £25 which will include wreath base, holly and other greenery. Refreshments will be served. (There may be an afternoon session if required).



CHURCH Drop in for tea and refreshments, a time of quiet reflection, to see the Nativity sets on display and other Christmas displays.

ANGELS Look out for angels appearing around Banff this weekend.

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER

SERVICES Second Sunday of Advent services in King Edward at 9.30am and Banff at 11am

SATURDAY 14 DECEMBER 10—12.30

GINGERBREAD Make your own gingerbread house wrapped in cellophane to take home or give as gift. All ages welcome, under 12s must be accompanied by an adult. Places must be booked in advance. Cost £6 per house includes refreshments.

CHURCH Drop in for tea and gingerbread, a time of quiet reflection, to see the Nativity sets on display and other Christmas displays. Meet and chat with members of the Book Club in the church to find out more about their group.

SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER



MESSY CHRISTINGLE & BREAKFAST

This is an all age event with fun and food for everyone – age from 0 – 100 years. Everyone is welcome to make a Christingle followed by breakfast in the hall before the fun Christingle service. Join us in the hall from 10am. If you come to church on the bus and would like to come along do mention it to the driving team who will do their best to arrange transport.

SERVICES Third Sunday of Advent services in King Edward at 9.30am and Christingle service in Banff at 11am

SATURDAY 21 DECEMBER 10—12.00

CHRISTMAS CHAOS! Mums, Dads, grandparents looking for a couple of hours to wrap gifts, do some shopping? Drop off your child at the hall for a morning of fun activities, videos and music. This event is for children aged 5-12 years and places **must** be booked.



CHURCH Mums, dads, grandparents, everyone looking for a couple of hours quiet time? Visit us in the church for a time of quiet reflection and see the beautiful display of Nativity sets, angels and other displays. Tea and mincemeat pies available.

SUNDAY 22 DECEMBER

SERVICES Fourth Sunday of Advent services in King Edward at 9.30am and Banff at 11am

FAMILY CANDLELIT CELEBRATION SERVICE in Banff Parish Church at 6pm followed by refreshments in the hall.

Details of Christmas week services will be publicised in the next edition of the Bridge magazine.

WANT TO FIND OUR MORE? SIGN UP FOR A WORKSHOP?

Call: 01261 818211 (please leave a message and we will get back to you.)

Email: info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk

Facebook for updates: Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

Congratulations King Edward Ladies

It is with a good deal of pleasure that I advise that the ladies of King Edward SWI excelled themselves at this year's Turriff Show. Our display depicting the season "SUMMER" received a first with a red rosette and three Bests in Show, as well as winning the John Grant trophy for their entry of two floral arrangements along side a selection of vegetables. Not only this but several of our members did really well in the individual entries so "Well Done" to all.



A Misunderstanding

A man was seen running down the centre of Union Street, Aberdeen, with his mouth wide open one Sunday lunch time. A bobby called him over and asked, "Faet are ye deein min, rinnin' doon the sinter o' thaes busy street amang a' the traffic wi yer moo wide open?" The chiel replied, "The Meenister haes jist taelt us there's a spirit in the air!"



Mad Hatter's Tea Party



Getting ready for the main event!



All dressed up in their Sunday best: what people will wear to church these days!



The hall was buzzing, and don't the pom-poms look great!

Months of preparation finally ended when the Alice and her friends arrived for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party in Banff Church Hall on 20th and 21st September. Great fun was had by all, singing and dancing along to the show then munching on special Wonderland treats.



Do you like to Floss???



The Dormouse managed to sleep through most of the tea party...until someone mentioned the C-A-T!



Prizes were awarded each day for the best hat and the best costume.

Volunteers and attendees alike had great fun dressing up in special costumes or strutting their stuff in some very mad hats! Cheques for £200 were presented to each of the nominated charities. Money raised from ticket sales was supplemented by a well-supported raffle; thank you to all the individuals and organisations in the community who donated prizes.



Smiles of relief once it was all over!



The event raised money for HomeStart, Banff Primary library and the Banff Academy Tanzania trip.

Many, many thanks to all the wonderful people who came and especially to all the volunteers who helped make it all happen. Now, who's for a cup of tea...

Thanks to Andy Taylor for all the photos.

At the previous two meetings of Banff Churches Together we were delighted to welcome Joan Morrison and Ian Whewell from Portsoy Parish Church, Colin Murray from Destiny Church Portsoy, Tina Harris from Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church Banff, Anne Heinrich from River Church Banff and Bruce Smith from the Salvation Army. Many of you will have seen Bruce standing outside the hairdresser's shop beside the crossing on High Street on Fridays so do say hello the next time you pass him.

The group were delighted that the Rev. Hugh O'Brien of Macduff Parish Church has been appointed as Moderator for Buchan Presbytery and his Session Clerk, Andy Simpson, has been appointed as Lord Lieutenant of Banffshire. Congratulations go to both.

There is a feeling of expectation, positivity and energy within this group of churches who clearly feel that progress is being made in working together and connecting to make changes for the better in our communities through joint activities and worship. How can we open up our churches to others was the key theme for discussion.

The River Church hosted a Revival Conference in August to which all in BCT had been invited. This event proved highly successful with Pastors coming from all over Scotland. An interesting outcome has been the setting up of a school uniform bank at River Church and all donations will be welcome. This idea has been successfully trialled in Moray. Tina Harris is responsible for promoting Pilgrimages in the area and hopes to involve BCT in following churches on a pilgrimage along the coastal route.

The group listed the successes of BCT since its inception 19 years ago and how we can go forward together as a bigger group working collaboratively on some activities and individually on others. Ideas floated included support of the Portsoy Boat Festival Service, cooperative fundraising for Christian Aid, twinning with churches in Banff Canada and continuation of the Banffie articles on Faith. A joint website had been initiated in the past and it was agreed this needed to be updated as a means of raising awareness of what events are happening.

A successful example of cooperation was an evening of Joint Prayer which was held in Macduff Parish Church on Tuesday September 11th and was well attended by members of Banff and Macduff churches. Each Church Leader gave bible readings followed by suggestions for Prayer Themes which included praying

for workers in the community, praying for our country in times of turmoil, praying for persecuted Christians and war-ravaged countries etc. Those attending were placed in groups to pray either quietly or aloud and were rotated in order to engage with different people.

An upcoming example of further cooperation will be Buchan Presbytery hosting an Evening of Praise in Macduff Parish Church on Saturday 28th September at 7.00pm to celebrate the Rev. Hugh O'Brien's new appointment. We do hope that as many people can attend as possible and those who enjoy singing can opt into the pop-up choir which meets for rehearsal at 1.00pm so do come and raise the roof!!

SAVE THE DATE

Banff Parish Church will be hosting **The Big Quiz** on **Saturday 16th November 2019**.

This is a great opportunity to have fun with friends while raising money for **Tearfund**. Together, we can all help to make a difference for the poorest people in the world.



Look out for more information in the bulletin or on Facebook nearer the time.

Feedback Summary

Bridge Editorial Team

Thank you to all of you who returned responses to the feedback questionnaire we sent out with copies of The Bridge earlier in the year. The Editorial Team would like to take this opportunity to give you some idea of the suggestions we received and how we plan to take these forward.

Where we are:

- Most people are happy with most of the content and seemed to feel there was generally a good balance of articles.
- Most people are happy with the size and text size.

- There was general agreement that our photos have not been of adequate quality, although most thought that black and white printing was fine.
- Many people now receive their Bridge by email in which case they get a full colour version. We are also using FaceBook to encourage others to read the Bridge online via the church website.

Where we're going:

- There seemed to be a desire for a magazine that would speak more to our community, and that was distributed to and read by a larger section of our community e.g. by making copies available in a range of public spaces.
- Alongside this was a desire for a continuing emphasis on faith-based articles, showing how our faith is relevant to and played out within our community.
- We want to continue including a large number of photos as they can quickly and easily give an idea of what an event was like. We don't, at this stage, want to look at printing elsewhere or on glossy paper – mostly due to the extra cost. This is something we might consider further down the line.

How we think we can get there:

- We plan to approach a small selection of local businesses to see if they will sponsor an issue of the Bridge in return for a colour advert on the back page. Before approaching anyone or publishing anything we will check that the minister and session clerk are content that there is no conflict of interest or other issue.
- We will draw up a list of public places where we might be allowed to distribute copies of the Bridge. We hope to use the talents database to get help in approaching these places for permission and then doing the distribution. Please let us know if you might be able to help.
- To make producing the Bridge a more manageable task for all involved, we would will make it quarterly rather than every two months. The quarterly magazine would be able to have more pages than currently, depending on how many articles are submitted.
- The new church printer is much cheaper and gives pictures of a significantly better quality for not much difference in price. Using the new printer allows us to print in-house with less compromise on picture quality.

We always value feedback, articles and suggestions so please get in touch at any time with your ideas. If you are bursting with ideas, or alternatively don't think we are doing a good enough job, then please come and join us – many hands make light work!

“Make someone happy this Christmas”

“You can make a difference today”

Whether through filled shoeboxes at Christmas or relief and development and social projects for young and old, Blythswood brings hope to families in Eastern Europe, Asia and Africa.

One of the volunteers who distributes shoeboxes says:

“Time and again I’ve seen the reaction of the children and adults as they discover the gifts that you have so kindly provided for them. Despite the difficulties that they face day to day - through poverty, illness, disability or other disadvantages –receiving a shoebox bring such joy that their faces light up with a huge smile.”

Blythswood distribute thousands of boxes each year. Please fill a shoebox this year and give joy to someone in need this Christmas.

Leaflets will be available at the back of the Church with checklists of suggested items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hats, scarves, gloves etc.

Boxes can be left at the back of the Church or handed into the hall at any of our activities:

Tot and teas Tues 10-11.30; Wed 1.15-2.45

KidZone Wed 3-4.15

Kirk Café Thurs 2-4

Our boxes will be collected on Wednesday 6th November between 10.15 and 11.00, so please have all boxes in church for Sunday 3rd November.

If you would like boxes collected please contact either Maureen Forsyth on 833767 or Ron Smith on 815440.

Once again many thanks for your help and support with our appeal this year.



In the August/September issue, Irene told us some of her impressions and highlights from the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, which took place in Edinburgh from 18th to 24th May 2019. Here she summarises some of the main reports made to Assembly which are likely to impact on Banff and King Edward congregations. Our Kirk Sessions are already considering how to respond to some of these challenges, so expect to hear more over coming months!

Each Committee Chair read out a summary of their full report then submitted the report to the Assembly for its approval. Commissioners received these reports in advance so had had a chance to read and consider them. In all cases there were questions, amendments and often votes taken for final motions to be passed.

The Legal Questions Committee must provide a national framework to follow and keep church laws up-to-date and adapt old ones. It was agreed to pass legislation whereby Kirk Sessions have the option of appointing elders for fixed term periods. By this, Elders do not have to sit on the Kirk Session for life but can utilise their talents in other ways in church service as Elders. It was accepted that all of the 19 Presbyteries should participate in reviews undertaken by other Presbyteries to make them be more forward looking. (To date Buchan Presbytery has not undertaken this).

Special Commission on Structural Reform

The Rev. Professor David Fergusson headed this commission to independently review the standards of church governance to ensure they are fit for purpose to lead reform at a time when change is needed. He also consulted closely with the work of the Radical Action Plan Committee. He stressed how the General Assembly needed to be streamlined and updated and recommended that the Council of Assembly and its committees be replaced by 12 Assembly Trustees to be appointed for a 1-3-year term who in turn select a Convenor and Vice Convenor and an Administrative Trustee. They appoint a Senior Management Team who oversee Committees and Councils and select a Chief Officer and this was approved.

It was further agreed that by 2020 The Assembly Trustees compile a report providing recommendations to reduce administrative costs by 20%- 30%, by reducing staffing and conducting a pay scale review as well as ways in which the Social Care Council and Crossreach can become more self-sustaining and financially viable organisations in their own right. In addition, they have to ensure adequate funds are available for research and analysis to further enhance the work of the church. They too must reduce the number of Presbyteries

significantly within 5 years to 12 and empowerment be given to the church at local level. It was approved to merge the Ministries Council with the Mission and Discipleship Council and The Church and Society Council with the World Mission Council by the end of 2019 as well as The Mission and Discipleship Committee having to organise Heart and Soul 2020.

He further recommended a Business Committee be set up with a Convenor and Vice Convenor to ensure all structural reform is being carried out covering governance, finance, structural, staffing and streamlining of the General Assembly. Their task also is to prepare plans for the 2020 General Assembly in light of these issues and they must work with the Principal Clerk. They take over the responsibility for all properties, rights, assets and functions of the Assembly Arrangements Committee, as well as trust funds, donations and legacies.

Council of Assembly/Radical Action Plan

In the past the church was set up for larger congregations with the emphasis not just on religion but pastoral, educational and mission work too. It is now being hampered by this outdated system. The Church Without Walls recommendations 20 years ago were never fully implemented in terms of structural change and realignment of resources. Thus, much of the wonderful work being done was despite our systems and structures and not because of them. The Radical Action Plan seeks to reverse this.



The church is running at a substantial annual deficit and consequently reducing its reserves and this committee was set up under its Convenor Dr Sally Bonner - to review the churches finances and budget allocation due to the deficit, which it is hoped will be reduced to £2.9 million by 2020 as well as the possible selling off of the Assembly Hall, which will be reported back in 2020. In addition, 60 funds have been reorganised as well as loans, in efforts to streamline and make savings. Approval was given for a growth fund of £20-£25million for the period 2020-2026 to support the numerical and spiritual growth of existing Church of Scotland congregations worshipping communities, community transformation and tackling poverty. In addition, it was approved to refocus the National Office Support Team

to enable, equip and support local churches as well as giving them access to this fund.

Further approvals were received for the establishment of the 12 regional Presbyteries by 2024 or sooner. In relation to our churches, it was agreed to compile legislation by 2020 to enable the establishment of networks, hubs and other forms of local churches and encourage cooperation amongst churches, as well as the review of size and responsibilities of the Kirk Sessions. Vacancy allowances are to be reviewed from being under church control and instead passed to Presbytery and new ways are to be developed to support congregations with long term vacancies. Further measures passed included training and support for congregations, as well as leadership and initiatives for the engagement of those under 40 years of age.

It was agreed to review whether proceeds from redundant buildings could, in certain circumstances, be passed to the congregation and support be given at local and regional level to congregations in relation to buildings, safeguarding, finance and accounting, staff employment and developing effective partnerships. A further 10 Reports were given and approved by the Assembly during the course of the rest of the week.

Can you help?

Do you have a nativity set you would be willing to lend to the church?

As part of our advent festival we are keen to have a display of many different nativity sets. We would need them by Monday 24th November and hope to display them in the church until 21st December – see full details on pages 8-10.

If you are able to help please contact the church office.





King Edward School News

I hope you all enjoy the latest news from King Edward School. We are very proud and privileged to share our work and achievements with the community.

Audrey Clark
Head Teacher

Eco Schools



We are very proud to have been awarded our 6th Green Flag by Eco Schools Scotland. This flag represents our commitment to the programme, proving that we contribute to caring for our environment and that we are active in the cause. A very proud Mrs Cheyne and the Eco Committee pictured here with the flag.

Over the past year we have learned about burning environmental issues through this programme and the children showed a big interest in the plastic pollution crisis. The Eco Committee promoted a 'Take 3 for the Sea' campaign throughout our community via posters, letters and a newspaper article. This hopefully encourages all visitors to the beach to pick up at least three pieces of plastic to stop it ending up in the sea.

The school community embarked on a beach clean at Greenbanks, Banff, supported by our Aberdeenshire Council Ranger. We filled around 20 black bags of rubbish, our strangest find being a neep!



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. Nessie (Jessie) Clark, Fountain Park, Banff

Mrs. Buntly Ross, Durnhythe, Portsoy

Mrs. Dorothy Youngs, King Edward

Mrs. Mary Fergusson, Forres

“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

Flowers in October will be donated by Mrs Gillian Macrae, Mrs Mary Masson, Mrs Maureen Kaczmarek and Mrs Isabel Cook.

November flowers will be donated by the Boys Brigade, Mrs Irene Tewnion, Miss Moira Henderson, Mrs June Clark, Mr & Mrs T McLennan and Mrs Fran Ferguson.



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

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

|                                   |                                                                                                    |                       |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Session Clerk                     | Mrs. Elinor Smith                                                                                  | 815782                |
| Worship & Discipleship            | Ministry Team                                                                                      | Contact details above |
| Fellowship & Service Co-ordinator | Mrs. Rosie Blanchard                                                                               |                       |
| Outreach Co-ordinator             | Mrs. Moira Gess                                                                                    |                       |
| Resources Group                   | Mr. Jim Buchan                                                                                     |                       |
| Pastoral Care Group               | Mrs. Mary Cameron                                                                                  |                       |
| Communion Elder                   | Mr. Charlie Smith                                                                                  | 815782                |
| Safeguarding Co-ordinator         | Mr. Charlie Smith                                                                                  | 815782                |
| Roll Keeper                       | Mr. Donald Galloway                                                                                |                       |
| Sunday Club Contact               | Mrs. Karen Cumming                                                                                 | 07484 090127          |
| Beadle (Church Officer)           | Mr. Gordon Mustard                                                                                 |                       |
| Property Conveners                | Ron Smith & Ian Cameron                                                                            |                       |
| Hall Keeping Team                 | Contact Church Office                                                                              | 818211                |
| Magazine Editorial Team           | email: <a href="mailto:TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com">TheBridgeBAKE@outlook.com</a>                    |                       |
| Organist                          | Mr. Stephen Pratt                                                                                  | 833113                |
| Church Secretary                  | Mrs. Janet Simpson                                                                                 | 818211                |
| Life and Work Convener            | Mrs. Moira Ingram                                                                                  | 812393                |
| Flower Convener                   | Mrs. Pat McLennan                                                                                  |                       |
| Resources Group Clerk             | Mrs. Irene Tewnion                                                                                 |                       |
| Treasurer                         | Mr. James Millar                                                                                   | 498134                |
| FWO Treasurer                     | Mrs. Moira Gess                                                                                    |                       |
| Church Office                     | <a href="mailto:info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk">info@banffparishchurchofscotland.co.uk</a> | 818211                |

**KING EDWARD CHURCH** - Charity No SC015077

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

# **Banff and King Edward Parish Churches**

Banff Parish Church - Charity No. SC 015501

King Edward Parish Church - Charity No. SC 015077

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

|                                            |                     |                                 |                     |
|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| Harvest Thanksgiving/Come to Church Sunday | Sun. 6th October    | 11am                            | Banff Parish Church |
| Thanksgiving of Talents Service            | Sun. 13th October   | 11am                            | Banff Parish Church |
| Children's Activity Morning                | Thurs. 17th October | 10.30am                         | Banff Church Hall   |
| Soup and Sweet                             | Sat. 19th October   | 12-2pm                          | King Edward Hall    |
| Communion                                  | Sun. 27th October   | 9.30am                          | King Edward Church  |
|                                            |                     | 11.15am                         | Banff Parish Church |
| Messy Church                               | Fri. 1st Nov.       | 5pm                             | Banff Church Hall   |
| Tearfund Big Quiz Night                    | Sat. 16th Nov.      |                                 | Banff Church Hall   |
| Advent Festival begins                     | Sat. 30th Nov.      | see pages 8-10 for more details |                     |

## **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.**