

The Bridge

October/November 2018



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

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:12-15

Dear Friends, on recent Sundays we have been considering something of the harsh reality we face in our world, of growing international tensions and closer to home the difficulties of trying to build up our local society and economy for the future, in the face of difficulties like staff shortages affecting the NHS and schools, and fewer volunteers more generally.

Amidst the pressures, we heard warnings about sleepwalking into a dangerous future, but also that the confidence, guidance, challenge and accepting, caring spirit we get from Jesus helps not just our lives but the lives of our wider community. **Our churches matter as much as ever in sharing hope, care, compassion and community spirit in an increasingly self-centred world.**

In this Bridge you can read about quite a lot of events and activities being undertaken, some new, some longstanding, through the church, for the good of our community and wider world. It's encouraging to see people responding to the challenges about us, and showing how the church matters in real down to earth ways.

For example, the churches have been taking a lead in organising events to mark the centenary of the end of World War One. From knitting poppies, to supporting schools in remembrance, to organising the recent memorial service in Duff House grounds, and future events for the community on 11th November. In addition to the main morning services on the 11th, we have been organising a community event on Banff Bridge at about 6.30pm to bring together young and old in the Banff and Macduff areas to link in with national events around the UK. The beacons we light will thus be lit at the same time around the UK at 7pm.

Helping people come together in remembrance. But we also need to come together in a spirit of moving on to face the difficulties of today, and in Jesus we have someone who challenges and encourages us to respond by helping others.

More generally we hear inside about church support for our local foodbank and hospital, or more widely for Blythswood Care through shoe boxes, and how we supported one young man and his friends in visiting Tanzania to help people there. Plus all our more regular activities like conducting funerals, supporting families, schools, care homes and sheltered accommodation; coffee mornings, soups and sweets for the community. We also hear about some of the wider friendship and pastoral care that goes on in and through the church – in this regard our weekly delivery of flowers and cards to folk is so much appreciated.

It all I think shows we are active churches that care for our community and the wider world, not just our members. Indeed, Presbytery is to send out reminders to funeral directors to remind people we are here to conduct funerals for anyone in our community; and unlike some celebrants, Church of Scotland ministers do not charge for their services other than church heating etc.

However, as we get older it can get harder doing all we do, sometimes with fewer people to help. We need to let the encouragements and blessings we receive help keep us going. In Banff, it's exciting and encouraging to have six people willing to step forward in service as new Elders to help lead church forward in this way. It's also been good to welcome Christine McWhirter to our team at both Banff and King Edward for the next 8-9 months; already she has been warmly welcomed and is sharing much. In King Edward we have been sad to accept the retirement of our organist and choir mistress Eleanor Wilson, but gladdened that she appears to be recovering slowly. We miss her but are so glad to welcome Stephen Pratt as our acting organist and choirmaster.

It's good to welcome new people, but it's also good now and again to encourage folk who are working away hard and may be growing tired, in the face of fewer volunteers. In such situations it is so vital we remember to get on as a church and community, by getting on with one another – forgiving, accepting and supporting each other as Jesus commands. At times, even in church, people can rub us up the wrong way or put their foot in it. It was true of the early church as well, for we are all human. Please do read again the encouragement of scripture at the top of this letter, words which Andy Taylor 'co-incidentally' also read this week at our meeting of Banff Churches Together. I think they are words meant for us all. Please keep going and keep working away caring and forgiving each other, for the good of our church and its work in our community. **Let's all get on by working to get on with each other.**

Yours sincerely,

David

Banff and King Edward Parish Churches

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Shoebox Appeal 2018

*Make someone happy this Christmas –
YOU can make a difference!*

As intimated in the last Bridge, and although it seems hard to believe after our glorious summer, SHOEBOX APPEAL time is fast approaching.

Blythswood Care provides practical help, love and support for those in need.

Whether through filled shoeboxes at Christmas, relief and development aid and social projects for young and old, Blythswood brings hope to families in Europe, Africa and Asia. For every £1 donated, Blythswood delivers more than £5 worth of grass roots aid. With the support of ordinary people like you, Blythswood achieves EXTRAORDINARY transformations and provides loving care for body and soul.

In 2017 Blythswood gathered and delivered 115,932 shoeboxes.

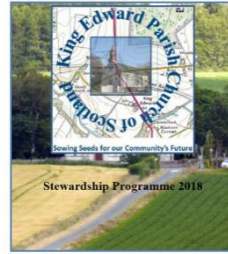
If you would like to give hope to someone in need this Christmas, please think about filling a shoebox – “the wonderful smell of soap” – that’s what Emanuela remembers about receiving one of the first Blythswood shoeboxes 25 years ago.

There are leaflets at the back of the church with checklists of suggested items needed e.g. toothbrushes, toothpaste, hats, scarves, gloves, soap etc.

Boxes can be left at the back of the church or handed into the hall during any of our group meetings. If you would like boxes collected please contact either Maureen Forsyth or Ron Smith.

The collection date we have for our boxes is Wednesday 7th November between 10.15 and 11.00 so we would need all boxes in church by Sunday 4th November – I will put a reminder about this in the bulletin nearer the time.

King Edward Stewardship Gathering



Sowing seeds for our community's future

King Edward Church's stewardship programme, held this summer, had positive results for the church, a recent review meeting of the events concluded.

Aware of the stress and hard work imposed on the organisers, it was good to hear there were so many positive remarks about the main event, and the fun people enjoyed on the day. The Kirk Session sincerely say thanks once again to those who participated and organised, especially our ever hard-working and inspirational Session Clerk Margaret.

We received 17 response forms, with eight more people taking out gift aid forms, which means for anyone paying tax, the church gets an extra 25% from each £1 donated. Also two people wanted to start using envelopes and three more people instead took out regular standing orders for their bank to pay the church directly each month. In addition, one-off donations of around £730 were received, and a further £920 was received as part of new annual donations. So this year, we raised an extra £1650 plus any gift aid, which is great!

Many thanks to all who have responded and to those who have kindly made donations. Your response is very much appreciated by all in our church. We would still be delighted to receive response forms from anyone who has not yet handed one in.

Coming soon...

King Edward man conquers America!

Cliff Pirie recently undertook an epic tour of the USA and has kindly shared some of his photos and reflections with us. Look out for them in future issues of The Bridge!

Cliff is considering showing his photos and doing a talk about his trip; if you would be interested please let him know.

Get F.I.T.!!!

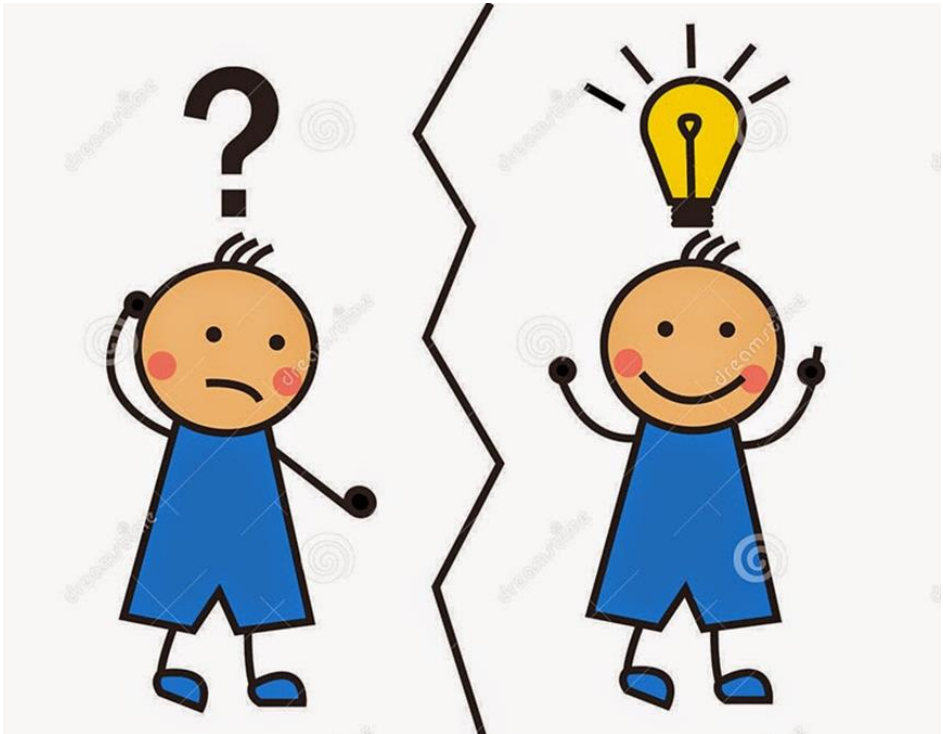
Faith In Talking Together

Come along everyone and join us talking/chatting about the passages we have looked at in Church on a Sunday. It gives us time to explore their meaning and to challenge the Minister with questions to keep him on his toes!!

It is a great way of hearing what others think and to find out that WE ALL have basic questions that we thought everyone else knew the answers to – but we didn't.

It is a great chance to understand what is said in Church so we can grow together in our faith.

We get together on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of most months at 7pm in the Church lounge, it's so casual, relaxing, social and friendly. It only lasts an hour but you leave feeling happy and a little closer to God.



News from the Banff Kirk Session

I hope you feel refreshed and renewed after a beautiful summer. At our most recent Kirk Session meeting, David reminded us by reading from Isaiah, Chapter 40, verses 27–31 and Galatians, Chapter 6, verses 9–10 that we can all feel the refreshment of God in nature and that when we feel weary and exhausted, God offers refreshment and encourages us to keep going.

The Kirk Session is delighted to be welcoming six new elders to join in the leadership of our church. By the time you read this, Mr. Ian Berstan, Mrs. Fran Ferguson, Ms Irene Finlayson, Mr. Stuart Law, Mr. Jim McNaughton and Mrs. Irene Tewnton will have been ordained and we are looking forward to the contributions that they will make in their own individual ways and as part of a bigger team.

Following the Stewardship Programme in Spring 2018, the Minister asked the Session Clerk to gather a small group to consider the church membership roll in the light of responses to the programme. An additional consideration was the requirement to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) that came into force in May 2018.

After discussion and consideration, the Kirk Session agreed that a supplementary roll should be created to accommodate those individuals who do not wish any active contact with the church at present but may wish to reconsider this in the future. It was also agreed that where stewardship programme correspondence was returned unopened and the individual intimated that they wished no further contact from the church, their wishes be accepted and their name removed from the church roll. It was felt that where people move on without leaving any forwarding address and where people have had no contact for a long time e.g. 2 years or more, their names should be included in a supplementary roll for a further year and later removed permanently thereafter. Of course the position of no member who wishes to remain a member would change.

The Kirk Session is keen to emphasise that all are welcome in our church at any time whether a church member or not and that we are committed to providing appropriate pastoral care and the services of a minister to everyone in our community when requested (including e.g. weddings and funerals), whether they are members of the congregation or not.

All members of our church family will be receiving a letter delivered by their elder outlining the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations and asking how they wish to be contacted. As a church we have to comply with the law about the personal information that we hold so I would encourage you to read the information carefully and respond in the timescale. If you have any queries at all about this, please contact me directly or speak to any elder - we will be pleased to help.

The Kirk Session was pleased to hear about some of the activities that individuals and groups are taking forward. These are just a few of activities planned:

- Mr. Keith Donald will be designing and producing a church **Christmas card**.
- Mrs. Joyce Millar is looking to organise a **tradecraft stall** with Crossreach Cards for sale.
- The Outreach Group is organising a **Tearfund Big Quiz** on Saturday 17 November - watch out for further details.
- Mrs. Vera Lumsden is working on producing a **CD** of CH2 Hymns for use particularly in our local care homes. The recording will take place at the evening service on Sunday 21 October. Do add your voice and help create a beautiful sound.
- Mrs. Pat McLennan and Mrs. Sheila Smith are planning to provide a tea service for clinics at Chalmers Hospital. If you would like to consider volunteering for this exciting new development, Pat or Sheila would be pleased to hear from you.
- The Busy hands group is planning the Poppy Display to mark the end of World War 1.
- The Fellowship and Service group has organised a traditional Scottish supper followed by a concert on Friday 21st September.
- Special Remembrance Day events are being planned to mark 100 years since the end of World War 1

I think we are very blessed here in Banff to be part of an active church that provides many opportunities for "Sharing, Caring and Giving". If you would like more information on any of the topics highlighted please get in touch – in person, by phone or by email.

Elinor Smith, Session Clerk

Animal Antics Holiday Club

Karen Cumming

We were delighted to have the Critter Keeper and his Critter Crew join us to start our end of summer holiday club. Families joined us for a fun and educational workshop where we got a chance to get up close and learn about some of the exotic animals from around the world. Sonic the Hedgehog seemed to be a favourite. I'm not so sure about Incy Spider!



Over the next three sessions we enjoyed learning about Noah and God's rainbow promise. On the first day we heard about how God asked Noah to build an Ark and fill it with two of every animal. The next session we continued the story about the flood and how God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of his promise to never flood the whole world again. All our activities were animal and rainbow themed to help remind the children of the story. Lots of fun was had and the children did a fantastic job making all their different crafts. We finished off our holiday club with a family breakfast on Sunday - the homemade crepes were amazing especially with strawberries and hot toffee sauce...yummm!

I would like to thank all the children and families who joined us during the holiday club, also a big thank you to the volunteers who gave up their time and talents to help me.

Please do keep an eye on our Facebook page for information on future activities this term or during the Tattie Holidays.

Blessings

Karen

Banff Churches Together Food Bank

Our food bank continues to make a big difference to many in our community. One of our volunteers, Tom McLennan, explains why our support is so needed and valued, and what we can do to help.

The food bank welcomes donations of tinned soup, meat, spaghetti, fish, vegetables & fruit. Likewise, boxes or packets of breakfast cereals, pasta or pasta sauces, ladies toiletries and toilet rolls. There has recently been a large donation of toothpaste and toothbrushes but they never go wrong! As long as the foodstuff is tinned, in a jar or in a packet with a good date on it everything is appreciated, whether it be one item or two and that applies to donations placed in the box at the back of our church. There is also a box in the church hall available during any of the week-day meetings, and a box for cash donations. Fresh vegetables are not handed out as a rule as there is insufficient space/conditions in which to store them.



Any money donations left in the church are used by a representative of the church to purchase items which there is a shortage of. No money is handed to food bank users who are always appreciative for what they get, some going through the bag and handing back something which they have plenty of so that others can benefit. All those attending the Food Bank have a referral sheet from an agency, i.e. Turning Point/Social Work etc. Whilst individual's names are not included on the sheet tabs are kept in an attempt to ensure that there is no misuse of the facility.

Busy Hands Group

The BUSY HANDS GROUP members are certainly living up to the group name! Since the beginning of May the group have knitted and crocheted blankets, hats, jumpers, slippers, socks, cardigans, gloves and scarves. We have donated the following:



- Home Start (Banff) 41 items
- Aberdeen Vulnerables 62 items
- Loving Hands* 53 items

We have also delivered 50 knee blankets to Chalmers Hospital, 11 to Doo'cot View and 8 to Banff Care Home. In total this year we have donated 364 items.

The Group is open to everyone, all are welcome. We meet in Banff Parish Church Hall on the last Saturday of each month to catch up over tea/coffee and chat while keeping our hands busy knitting, crocheting and crafting. Some of

the group knit for charities, others bring along their own projects. Many of our group have been busy making poppies for the Banff Poppy Project display, see page 20 for further information.

One lady in the group has a wonderful claim to fame - she knitted the sweater Harry Potter wore on the Harry Potter films. Please do come along and join us if you like keeping your hands busy while you chat!

* Loving Hands (www.lovinghands.org.uk) is based in Fife. As well as knitting they also act as a distribution centre for other groups, like Busy Hands. They distribute to many causes including: **Hand in Hand for Syria, Mercy Ships, Knit for Peace, Operation Orphan, The Highlands support Refugees** and **Project Peru** to name but a few.

“Tell me the old, old story” (of Jesus and his love)

This is the title of the CD we intend to record at Banff Parish Church on the evening of Sunday the 21st October at 6.00 pm. This “recording session” will be in place of the usual evening service. Although our church choirs from both Banff and King Edward will be involved in the recording, we wish to extend an open invitation to all who would like to come along and swell the numbers.

The recording will involve old hymns learned in childhood, all greatly loved and well known, mainly from CH2, the contents of which many of us over a certain age are very familiar with. If you enjoy singing and would like to be part of this project, please come along to the church and join us. We would love to see you and hear you!

The idea originated from an earlier evening service focusing on the Stewardship of Talents. Members of our congregation were discussing in groups how we might reach out to our community. Research has shown that singing well known songs or hymns from bygone days can be a great source of pleasure to many and may even help sufferers of dementia related illnesses, Alzheimer’s for example.

The CD will be made available to anyone who would like a copy, but is intended especially for those who are elderly, housebound, or resident in care homes or sheltered housing. Listening or singing along will hopefully stir happy memories of bygone days. It will be offered for sale for a small donation at a later date allowing us to make further copies should the demand arise. In the meantime, if you have any questions, speak with Vera, our Pastoral Assistant.



Vine Trust and Banff Academy Trip to Tanzania

Mason Gray

Everybody talks about taking a 'once in a lifetime' trip but I had never really thought about one until I was approached by a school teacher in 2016 regarding a trip to Africa with a charity to build houses for the unfortunate. Initially I was sceptical as this was a really long journey and it was heavily hinted at being a very physically and mentally demanding trip. I signed up with one of my friends not fully expecting to be going however a couple of months passed and after the first meetings with the school teachers involved I was hooked.

I spent the next couple of weeks/a month planning lots and lots of fundraising ideas to help amass the amount needed for going. Some of the fundraisers I have done included; a craft fair, selling tea and coffee at a school show and hosting a soup and sweet in Banff Parish Church Hall.

After nearly two years of planning and fundraising the trip was in full swing. On the 18th June 2018 me and 13 of my school mates all flew from Aberdeen Airport to Kilimanjaro Airport. The nerves and excitement were almost too much to handle and by the time we landed everyone was in the African spirit. The first day was spent mainly getting to know the Vine Trust coordinators and the rest of the schools attending and it was the second day we visited the worksite.

The family on the worksite was named Dorcas and it consisted of a great grandmother, a grandmother, a mother and a week-old baby. They were in such a poor state compared to our way of life here in Scotland however they couldn't keep a smile off their faces and welcomed us with everything they had. It was truly a moment and an epiphany that will stick with me for the rest of my life. A small gathering of kids sat and watched us as we spoke to the builders and residents of the area, they were really playful and curious always smiling for a photo.

The next two weeks were filled with hard work, good laughs and amazing memories. The one lesson that has stuck with me over the entire trip is that it



doesn't take the newest clothes or the fanciest gadgets to be happy, you just have to surround yourself with positive people and good vibes. The Tanzanians have very little to offer materialistically however they can offer their heart and soul which to me, now, means the world. I've come away from this trip gaining a whole new outlook on life and cannot wait to share that with others.

God-Incidents

*This article is from an email received by our minister, David Locke, copied below.
Please do let us know of any inspiration or other 'God-incidences' you come across!*

Dear Reverend Locke

This is a weird but genuine email contact - I got your email address from your church website. Please see the attached story which I wrote for my own local Parish Magazine this month, in Buckland, Surrey.

If you think it won't upset anyone, you may consider it for your Parish Magazine? And you may know the back-story?

I believe in God-incidence rather than coincidence, so it may inspire someone in Banff?

With Blessings

Duncan Ferns

Buckland Parish Church, Surrey

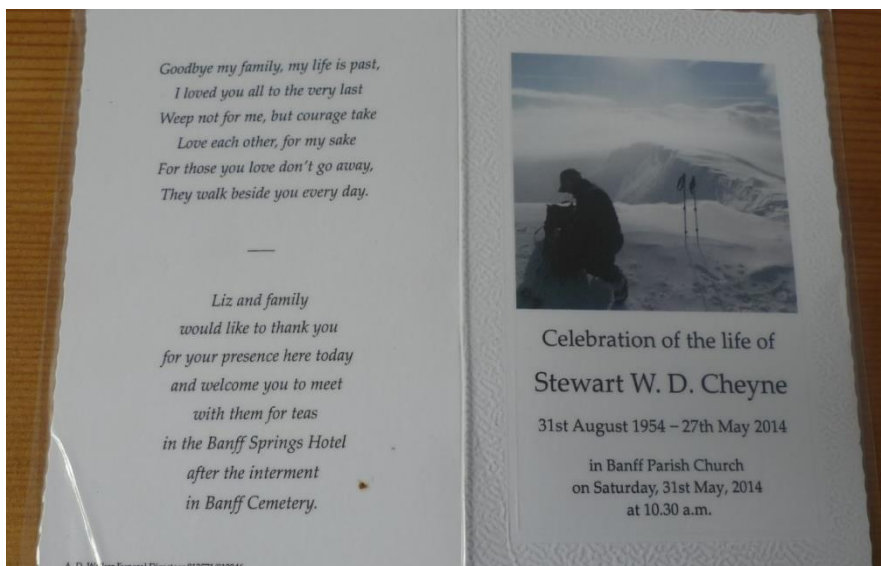
Weird things people do on holiday

OK I admit it, I sometimes go in village churches, and if they are empty (apart from my wife) I will sing a hymn. I never remember words, so have to find a favourite in a hymn book. It's quite cathartic and sometimes spiritually moving. I would not do it in a big church, but small churches just seem suited.

In the Dolomites of Italy, we found that there are many, isolated tiny chapels, usually about 4m x 4m. We found one at 2200m on an amazing mountain above St Ulrich in the Val Gardena, where there was a theme of displaying small 'wallet-size Remembrance Cards' of people who had died recently—though some of the cards were up to 10 years old. Of course almost all were Italian, most with Italian hymns on the cards.

Then I saw just one English-language card, containing the words of 'For the Beauty of the Earth' - so it was sung again.

It was in memory of Stewart W.D. Cheyne in Banff Parish Church, with a 'welcome afterwards at the Banff Springs Hotel.' I'd seen this famous hotel in Banff, Canada and it was impressive. He must be from the Canadian Rockies...



When I got home I Googled the name of the deceased. Was he famous? What was his connection to the Dolomites? But Stewart Cheyne owned a car bodyshop business in Banff—a small town in Aberdeenshire in Scotland, and had a ‘Just Giving’ site in his honour, corresponding with the date of his funeral in 2014. The Banff Springs Hotel in Aberdeenshire is, with its copycat name, no doubt a reputable establishment, but its photos somewhat lack the megalithic gothic architecture of its famous Canadian namesake.

Anyhow, In Memoriam, Mr Cheyne, we remembered you with this hymn a few years after your passing. And such good taste in mountain churches. Respect.
Thank you. DF

Banff Makes Music!

Banff Parish Church recently took part in a national project to use church bells from across Scotland as part of a new piece of music marking the centenary of the 1918 Armistice.

The ‘soundscape’ is due to be premiered by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra in November 2018.

For more information see www.armisticebells.com

Thanks to Jim Buchan for recording our church bell.

Planting your Spring Garden

For the Garden of your Daily Living...

Plant three rows of peas

1. Peas of Mind
2. Peas of Heart
3. Peas of Soul

Plant four rows of squash

1. Squash Gossip
2. Squash Indifference
3. Squash Grumbling
4. Squash Selfishness

Plant four rows of lettuce

1. Lettuce be Faithful
2. Lettuce be Kind
3. Lettuce be Patient
4. Lettuce really Love One Another

No Garden is complete without turnips

1. Turnip for Meetings
2. Turnip for Service
3. Turnip to Help One Another

To conclude our Garden we must have thyme

1. Thyme for Each Other
2. Thyme for Family
3. Thyme for Friends

Water freely with Patience and Cultivate with Love.

There is much Fruit in your Garden because you reap what you sow. Pass it on!!!

Author unknown – submitted by Katherine Sim



Friendship Group



The Friendship Group at Banff Parish Church initially resulted from the demise of the Guild. As Guild numbers fell it was agreed to try something less formal to encourage others to join the group and to allow faithful and long serving members to meet regularly. Thus the Friendship Group was born.

The meetings of the Friendship Group are far from formal! Meeting twice monthly with a break over the summer, the aim of the group is primarily to meet others, spend time together and offer friendship to anyone who chooses to join us. At the heart of the meetings is time to be with others, starting always with a simple shared meal and time to chat.

Membership continues to grow as people bring friends along, some church members, others not. The one thing they all have in common is that they are part of the local community we serve as a church. They are indeed a very diverse group of people who are all comfortable in each other's company.

At each meeting an activity is provided or a speaker present. These are also diverse in nature. If the speaker represents a charity, a donation is always given to support their work. It can be a humbling and learning experience at the same time.

Occasionally we have a games / beetle drive evening, best described as fiercely competitive, often hilarious and extremely popular. As can be seen by the programme for the forthcoming year, there is something for everyone.

There is no formal cost involved as such. Optional donations are used to cover food costs or speakers' expenses if desired. Excess money is used for the benefit of our church community. Most recently we purchased the microwave oven and some new kitchen crockery in addition to making a donation towards the cost of the new hall chairs.

At Christmas we dine out together at a local restaurant and also go on an annual summer outing, always followed by an early evening meal. This year we visited Leith Hall on a particularly pleasant day. After an informative guided tour we really enjoyed visiting the beautiful gardens surrounding the Hall. A nice way to enjoy a beautiful, sunny day and work up an appetite for our shared meal. We also share transport as various volunteer drivers carry a few passengers each.

At a time when loneliness is one of the greatest sicknesses in society, this little group reaches out to local people in our community, welcomes them and offers them friendship. That is the real point of the Friendship Group amid all the laughter and sharing. Long may it continue.

The new session of the Friendship Group is now well underway, meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of most months at 7pm in Banff Church Hall. All are welcome to attend any of the meetings.

"	4th September	Poppy Making	"
	18th September	Soy Kilts	"
	2nd October	Beetle Drive	
"	16th October	Lynette & James Oldman	
"	6th November	Trip to Tanzania	"
	20th November	Christmas Workshop	"
	4th December	Christmas Meal	
"	15th January	Scottish Night	
"	5th February	Mercy Ships	"
	19th February	Call My Bluff Quiz	"
	5th March	Downs Syndrome/Sign Language	
"	19th March	Portsoy Ice cream	
"	2nd April	Bowling	"
	16th April	Closing Meeting - AGM	"

Books Abroad Coffee Morning.

Irene Finlayson

Books Abroad held its annual coffee morning in Banff Church Hall on Saturday 22nd September, having had a very successful year in distributing used books to third world countries. Thanks to our volunteer Gary McGregor from Portsoy, a raffle held to celebrate our 35 years of distributing books raised £4000.

Our big projects during 2017/18 included Gambia and Zimbabwe where each received a 20-foot container of books. Our partner in Gambia was the Rotary of Banjul who distributed to 40



schools. In Zimbabwe, we worked closely with the charity The Collin Nyabadza Children's Voice Charitable Trust who delivered to 42 schools in their area plus two universities. The impact this had can be read in an extract from Collin's follow up report below:

"The consignment was shipped directly to Bulawayo where the Trust received it. By then the recipient schools had already been identified. These were from Bubi, Bulawayo, Imbizo, Matobo, Tsholotsho, Umzingwane and Mutasa Rural Districts. This remains one of the biggest projects undertaken by the Trust so far, as it helped impact a total of 19,056 (nineteen thousand and fifty-six) children. Two local universities, the National University of Science & Technology (N.U.S.T.) in Bulawayo and the Lupane State University in Lupane Rural District were the tertiary institutions that received books which if purchased locally would have cost a total of US \$500,000 or more. This therefore makes this project a worthy investment."

Other mini projects who received books during 2017/18 included Ghana, Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe making this a very busy year for Volunteers who travel to the Books Abroad Warehouse based on the Richmond Industrial Estate in Rhynie either on Monday or Wednesday mornings throughout the year. Naturally sending containers of books is expensive on average costing £7,000 per container which is why the charity holds events such as coffee mornings and raffles locally.

We very much appreciate your support of our annual coffee morning and are also happy to receive donations of used text books, hardbacks, paperbacks, dictionaries, atlases or reference books such as engineering, medical, science, computing, business, etc. either at coffee mornings or via collection.

Telephone: 01464 861466

Email: info@booksabroad.org.uk

Website: www.booksabroad.org.uk

Scottish Registered Charity no. SC011359



JUST A COMMON SOLDIER **(A Soldier Died Today)**

by **A. Lawrence Vaincourt** – submitted by Keith Donald

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the Legion, telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he had fought in and the deeds that he had done,
In his exploits with his buddies; they were heroes, every one.

And tho' sometimes, to his neighbours, his tales became a joke,
All his Legion buddies listened, for they knew whereof he spoke.
But we'll hear his tales no longer for old Bill has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, for a soldier died today.

He will not be mourned by many, just his children and his wife,
For he lived an ordinary and quite uneventful life.
Held a job and raised a family, quietly going his own way,
And the world won't note his passing, though a soldier died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell their whole life stories, from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a soldier goes unnoticed and unsung.



Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land
A guy who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or the ordinary fellow who, in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his Country and offers up his life?

A politician's stipend and the style in which he lives
Are sometimes disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary soldier, who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and perhaps, a pension small.

It's so easy to forget them for it was so long ago,
That the old Bills of our Country went to battle, but we know
It was not the politicians, with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedom that our Country now enjoys.

Should you find yourself in danger, with your enemies at hand,
Would you want a politician with his ever-shifting stand?
Or would you prefer a soldier, who has sworn to defend
His home, his kin and Country and would fight until the end?

He was just a common soldier and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his like again.
For when countries are in conflict, then we find the soldier's part
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot do him honour while he's here to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps just a simple headline in a paper that would say,
Our Country is in mourning, for a soldier died today.

Banff Poppy Project

The deadline for handing in your knitted or crocheted poppies has now passed, but if you have one or two outstanding please still hand them in to the church and we will do our best to include them in the display. The display will be in place for the Remembrance Sunday service.

Thanks once again to everyone in our church and community who has supported the Project by knitting or crocheting poppies themselves or by sponsoring others to do so. Special thanks once again to the Spotty Bag Shop for their generous donation of wool.



On a personal note.....

(Notes from the diary of the Pastoral Assistant.)



I meet some interesting people during my visits. Just recently I visited a 96-year-old lady who is no longer able to come to church. She invited me in and made me feel very welcome.

Since this was the first time I'd met her, I was interested to hear about her life. She spoke about meeting and marrying a Polish gentleman, and about the family they had. We compared notes on grandchildren (you know not to get me started talking about my granddaughter, Heidi!). I was interested to hear about her daughter who is a teacher, but saddened to hear about her husband's sudden death.

However, nothing prepared me for hearing about her son who was murdered in America when he was just 20! This amazing lady has had a lot to deal with in her long life, and she was an inspiration to me as she spoke about her faith in God, and how He helped her through all these difficult times.

After sharing a prayer together, I left her with her life story still in my mind, but what stayed with me just as much was her saying, "so long as my church doesn't forget me." It felt good to be with her, face to face, and reassure her we hadn't forgotten her. That's why I'd visited her that day.

During this season of Remembrance, wouldn't it be good if we could imagine ourselves looking into the faces of those who lost their lives in the two world wars and other wars besides, and be able to say we hadn't forgotten them.

We do, and will continue to, remember them, no matter what age they lost their lives, or who's loved one they were.

Let us not forget those who are no longer with us, and also those no longer able to be in church with us. We shall remember them.

Vera.

(P.S. If you, or someone you know, would like to receive a visit, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My mobile number is 07890 865931. The Minister's contact details are elsewhere in the Bridge. Prayer requests can also be submitted via the Pastoral Care page on our church website.)

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 Alice McDonald, Banff
Mr Peter Hughes, Whitehills
Mrs Annie Smith, Banff
Mrs Nancy Chalmers, Banff
Mrs Winnifred Allen, Elgin

“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

We are grateful to the following who have and will donate flowers to beautify Banff Church.

|               |                                       |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|
| 7th October   | Mrs Maureen Kaczmarek                 |
| 14th October  | Ms Irene Finlayson                    |
| 21st October  | Mrs Isabel Cook                       |
| 28th October  | Mrs Ruby McQueen                      |
| 4th November  | Boys Brigade                          |
| 11th November | Flower Group                          |
| 18th November | Mr & Mrs R Smith                      |
| 25th November | Miss Moira Henderson & Mrs June Clark |



The Flower Group are extremely grateful to all who donate for the flowers on a Sunday and there are still some dates left on the calendar available to anyone who would like to add their name.

Contact person: Pat McLennan (Tel. 815737)

**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.*

# **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**

|                                                        |                    |                   |                                           |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Poppy Display<br>preparation (sewing poppies in place) | Sat. 13th October  | from 10am         | Banff Church Hall                         |
| Tearfund speaker                                       | Sun. 14th October  | 11am              | Banff Parish Church                       |
| Recording of CD                                        | Sun. 21st October  | 6pm               | Banff Church Hall                         |
| Harvest Thanksgiving/<br>Come to Church Sunday         | Sun. 28th October  | 9.30am<br>11.00am | King Edward Church<br>Banff Parish Church |
| Deveron River Brass<br>concert                         | Sat. 3rd November  | TBC               | Banff Parish Church                       |
| Community WWI<br>centenary commemoration               | Sun. 11th November | TBC               | Banff Bridge                              |
| Communion                                              | Sun. 18th November | 9.30am<br>11.15am | King Edward Church<br>Banff Parish Church |
| Messy Church                                           | Fri. 14th December | 5pm               | Banff Church Hall                         |

## **Regular Activities**

### Weekly:

|                       |                      |             |                   |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Tots and Teas         | Tuesday              | 10-11.30am  | Banff Church Hall |
|                       | Wednesday            | 1.15-2.45pm | Banff Church Hall |
| KidZone               | Wednesday            | 3-4.45pm    | 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 |
| Monthly Lunch         | 1st Thursday         | Noon-1.30pm | 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         | Banff Kirk Lounge |
| 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 a break over the summer months. For up-to-date information please check Facebook or the weekly bulletins.**