



THE BRIDGE

Magazine of Ellon Parish Church



MARCH
APRIL
2017

WORSHIP @ ELLON PARISH CHURCH

ELLON PARISH CHURCH

Family Worship | 10am | Sunday | Fellowship afterwards including Fairtrade Tea & Coffee and butteries.

SLAINS KIRK OF ELLON PARISH CHURCH

Family Worship | 11:15am | 1st & 3rd Sunday | Fellowship before including Fairtrade Tea & Coffee and home bakes. | Collieston Community Centre

CONNECT

Contemporary Worship | 7pm | 1st & 3rd Sunday | video | discussion | praise band | Fairtrade filter coffee, tea and home bakes throughout.

CHILDREN @ ELLON PARISH CHURCH

TWINKLE STARS

0 years – pre-school children | 10am | Sunday | games | songs | free play | snack

STAR SQUAD (SUNDAY EDITION)

Primary School aged children | 10am | Sunday | games | songs | crafts | puzzles | story | fun | friendship

STAR SQUAD (WEDNESDAY EDITION)

Primary School aged children | 3:30pm – 4:30pm | Wednesday | **from 3rd May** | games | songs | craft | Bible story | fun | friendship

CARDBOARD CAFÉ

babies, toddlers, parents, carers | 9:30am – 11:30am | Friday | snacks | story | crafts | messy play | Kirk Centre

Call 01358 725690 for more info.

All leaders and helpers for our children's work have been approved by the Kirk Session and are PVG checked.

YOUTH @ ELLON PARISH CHURCH

GSUNDAY

S1 – S6 | 7pm | Sunday | Kirk Centre | games | chat | friendship | fun

Call 01358 725690 for more info.

All leaders and helpers for our youth work have been approved by the Kirk Session and are PVG checked.

PRAYER @ ELLON PARISH CHURCH

FRIDAY MORNING PRAYER

Alternate Fridays | 7:15am | Ellon Parish Church | worship | liturgy | prayer
| all welcome | Fairtrade tea & coffee

SUNDAY MORNING PRAYER

Sunday | 9:45am | Ellon Parish Church | prayer for those leading the service
| all welcome to join in this prayer time

PRAYER BOX

Always available | Under the sign outside Ellon Parish Church building | drop a note in the box for someone or something you'd like the church to pray for | confidentiality is always respected

PERSONAL & PASTORAL PRAYER

If you or a loved one, or someone you know, would like pastoral or prayer support, we will be delighted to offer this either through prayer on a Sunday morning, or by visiting your or their home to offer support. Please speak to Alastair, your elder or Edith in the Kirk Centre Office. Confidentiality is always respected.

MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER

Ellon Parish Church minister Rev Alastair Bruce considers how we support each other and if another person's shoes are just uncomfortable.

One evening a couple of weeks ago Nicola and I had a rare moment of peace and quiet after James has gone to bed and to sleep (I separate those things because the two don't always coincide). We were browsing *Netflix* and stumbled upon the film version of the Harper Lee novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* and as Nicola hadn't seen it or read the book. And because I had watched all four hundred and thirty eight hours* of the BBC adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* (Nicola's favourite book and book adaptation) it was her turn to watch my favourite book adaptation.

Many of us know the famous scene where Atticus and Scout are talking and Atticus says that to understand a person you have to put on their shoes and to walk around in their skin for a while. It's good advice and something that has resonated with me since I read the book in high school. I think that trying to see

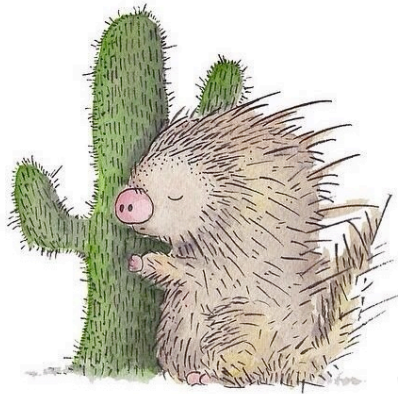
things from another's point of view can be powerful.

What can be equally powerful is when you are able to share with people who truly have put on your shoes and walked around in your situation for a while, or as near your situation as you can get. At the beginning of March this was brought

home to me as I attended an overnight conference with ministry colleagues who all trained together and have spent a similar amount of time in their first charge.

On the evening of the first day we were invited to share for about ten minutes what was going on in our ministries and then folks would pray for us. It was a profound time of much laughter and tears.

It reminded us that we are not on our own.



*She really needed a hug
from someone who understood her.*

* This might be a slight over estimate

It reminded us that sometimes our muddles and messes are the same as someone else's muddles and messes, but also that our worries, though huge to us, are perhaps not the biggest on the planet.

It reminded us that we might want to walk in someone else's shoes but that they might be just as awkward as ours and perhaps the best thing is to walk along side.

The author Lynda Meyers put it like this:

I could walk a mile in your shoes, but then I already know they're just as uncomfortable as mine. Let's walk next to each other instead.

As we approach Easter and Holy Week I'm reminded that I don't really want to walk in Jesus shoes but that he has walked in mine. His journey to the cross and the work he did on the cross is good news for us,

but excruciatingly hard for him. Throughout his life, ministry and death he experienced the full range of human emotions from laughter and joy and excitement to sadness, anger, loss, abandonment and pain. That's not really a pair of shoes I would want to walk in, but I'm thankful that I don't have to, that I'm not called to that, because that was Jesus' calling. He walked the road for us, so we don't have to.

So throughout this Easter time and over the months ahead may you remember that we are not alone, that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be our comforter and our helper. And so through the Holy Spirit the church was born so we would have a community, a family to share our joys and sorrows, and our laughter and our tears with. I pray that Ellon Parish Church grows to become that place of community for you and for me.

May God bless you and your family and friends.

ON THE SQUARE (ELLON PARISH CHURCH COFFEE SHOP)

Set "On the Square" in the gorgeous Aberdeenshire town of Ellon, the Kirk Centre Coffee Shop is a friendly, modern coffee shop serving delicious hot & cold drinks from Lattes to Irn-Bru, lunches of soup, paninis, salads and more plus delicious homebakes not to be missed. All amidst inspiring local art and craft work.

**Opening times: Tuesday – Saturday | 10am – 4pm
Sunday & Monday | closed**

For info or bookings call: 01358 723517



ELLON TALKING NEWSPAPER

Ellon Talking Newspaper is a registered charity providing news from Ellon and the surrounding area in a weekly audio digest, enabling the visually impaired to gain access to local stories.

Our presenters are volunteers who read extracts from newspapers and general interest articles. The weekly compilation is recorded every week on a Thursday evening at the Ellon Library and distributed by a free postal service to registered recipients.

Our recordings are distributed on USB memory sticks, which enables our listeners to enjoy our publication on a variety of devices specifically designed for the blind and partially sighted community. We also can loan listeners a playback box.

Do you know someone who would like to receive a copy?

Get in touch via the Library on 01358 720865 and we will arrange a demonstration & delivery.

Can you help?

We are always interested in new volunteers. Get in touch via the Library on 01358 720865 and we will arrange to show how we work.

POINT TO PONDER

Eddie Graham Ellon Parish Church's Worship Core Group Convenor ponders the importance of reading in church.

Getting to be part of worship is a joy. We are fortunate to have such a wealth of people who are happy to be part of and are welcomed in being part of worship. It's something that most churches would love to replicate and something we should cherish.

I count myself especially fortunate because I have had opportunities to lead prayers, addresses and, on the odd occasion, the whole service. All of those are equally rewarding and challenging. The preparation involved in each is an essential part of the enjoyment. To write a prayer or an address needs you to understand clearly what you are trying to say and, especially for the address, you need to understand the readings. Whether we read the Bible often or not, reading a passage with a view to writing something that makes sense, adds something individual and gives a congregation a little extra insight is



The problem with being a reader is you are not the listener

very different from reading for your own enjoyment.

I'm lucky in that I have training on giving presentations (and I'm loud). I know about making eye contact, talking slowly and clearly, and making sure everyone feels I am being myself. Reading slowly was my toughest challenge. It's only through reading often that I have realised it is essential to let my words breathe in the minds of the congregation. The problem with being a reader is you are not the listener. Your ears are inches from your mouth and if you have written or practiced what you are about to read, you already know it. Everyone in front of you hasn't had that luxury, so they need time to absorb.

That training doesn't stop me getting nervous. I get nervous before I do anything, which is healthy. I get most nervous however before I read the living

Word in Church. The nerves come from the importance of the words and over complicating what I'm about to do. I must remind myself

that as much as it is the most important words in our worship it is also the most beautifully written.

The Bible is a gift to a reader.

The stories are the greatest ever told and they are written in such a way that any reading of them brings grace to the listener.

All you need to do is take a deep breath, speak in a clear voice, enjoy yourself and let the words on the page breath in the ears of the congregation. Or rather, let

whatever you are reading use your voice to reach out and live in the hearts of all who hear and bring them into worship.

For anyone who reads in Church there is a page on the Church of Scotland website which gives advice on speaking at the lectern and managing nerves etc. I found it very useful and it's worth having a look at.
Yours in Christ,

<https://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/resources/quick-guides/worship-practice>

That awkward moment at church when you go for a handshake...



... and they go for a hug.



STUFF FROM THE SESSION

*Ellon Parish Church's Session Clerk **Sandra Beaton** gives a brief overview of the work of the Core Groups and the kinds of things discussed and considered in the Kirk Session.*

The long dark winter days may feel never ending, but there is warmer weather around the corner. It is therefore important to look forward and start planning for spring and in the words of Harriet Ann Jacobs,

The beautiful spring came; and when Nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.

So, as we look forward to being revived and renewed, in the year ahead, the Kirk Session held their first meeting in January.

Within the meeting the Conveners of the Core Groups updated Session on their meetings and brought proposals for Session's approval, but the main part of the meeting had been set aside for the discussion on an instruction that came through the

"Legal Questions 2016" report and deliverances at the 2016 General Assembly:

The General Assembly [instruct] that from 1 January 2017 the only form of constitution which congregations may adopt and which may be granted by the Delegation of the General Assembly shall be the Unitary Constitution and urge those congregations constituted in terms of the Model Deed and other forms of constitution to adopt the Unitary Constitution.

Clearly this encourages us to change constitution from Model Deed to Unitary, and the Leadership Team felt that this change may be a catalyst to help create a structure that would allow Ellon Parish Church to identify our vision, mission and

strategy.

What required more discussion was the decision concerning how this could be implemented and a need to take this opportunity to structure things (i.e. core groups etc.) so that we can focus our energies on the core aspects of being church.

Session were asked to discuss the pros and cons of changing to Unitary Constitution and to either:

1. Revert to a standard Model Deed Constitution form of governance where all decisions are made by Kirk Session and Congregational Board thus no more Core Groups
2. Remain as we are.
3. Adopt Unitary Constitution and structures recommended by this.



...a need to ... structure things so we can focus our energies on the core aspects of being church.

Session concurred with the proposed recommendation from the Leadership Team that Ellon Parish Church change their Deed of Constitution from Model Deed to Unitary. The Congregational Board will now have the opportunity at their meeting in February to also discuss this. The final decision as to whether Ellon Parish Church moves to this form of constitution belongs to the congregation.

The Kirk Session next meet in March so until my next update may I leave you with these words from G. Campbell Morgan,

We cannot organize revival, but we can set our sails to catch the wind from Heaven when God chooses to blow upon His people once again.

VISIT OF REV RUSSELL BARR (MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY) TO GORDON PRESBYTERY

The Moderator is due to visit our presbytery in April. There are various open events during this time to which you are invited. These are the details we currently have from presbytery:

Sunday 23rd April | Songs of Praise Evening | Strathbogie Church

Wednesday 26th April | Visit to Kintore re: Path of Renewal

Friday 28th April | Social Gathering | Kemnay

Saturday 29th April | Walk at Bennachie

Sunday 30th April | Presentation of Long Service Certificates | St Andrews, Inverurie

PRAYER BREAKFAST

Vicky Stigent | Gordon Presbytery Youth Work Facilitator | 07562 308704

On **Saturday 18th March**, Vicky Stigent, the presbyteries Youth Work Facilitator, will be running a **prayer breakfast** in the church from **9am-10:30am**.

This will be a chance to pray for children and young people from the presbytery and further afield as well as an opportunity to hear about what's going on locally.

Ranging from holiday clubs to youth services, prayer spaces in schools to creative arts projects, many churches

are finding innovative and exciting ways to reach out to younger generations and help them to become part of the great big family of God.



The prayer breakfast is for everyone who wants to support us in prayer, whether or not you regularly work with children and young

people. To help us with catering, email

vstigent@churchofscotland.org.uk or text 07562308704 if you're planning to join us.

COFFEE AND CRAFT

1st Thursday of the Month | 2pm – 3:30pm

Coffee and craft takes place in the Wee Chapel once a month on a Thursday at 2pm. it's an opportunity to get together to share what's been happening in the week and to do some craft work together. It's open to anyone who happens to like crafting projects whether they are young or just young at heart.

.....

COFFEE AND CHAT

4th Friday of the Month | 2pm – 3:30pm

Coffee and chat takes place in the Gathering Area at the back of the Ellon Parish Church building once a month on a Friday at 2pm. It's open to anyone who is in need of a bit of company and a cuppa.

KNITTING UPDATE

On Sunday 29th January Dennis Chalmers emptied Morag Doak's loft of knitting, where it had been stored there from all the knitters in the parish. On Monday tables were set up in St Ternan's Hall, Mary Paterson, Edith and April Walker sorted and boxed them up ready for delivery to the Raven Trust, Dundee on Saturday 4th February.

18 boxes and over 1000 items later they were stored in the GB cupboard until Thursday when Edith and April packed them into the car (it's amazing how much you can get in a Skoda).

On Saturday morning Edith and April set off for Dundee at 8am with all the knitting on-board, by 10.10am the car was unloaded and stacked in Raven Trust lock up. The 2 ladies on duty were very grateful of all the knitting and explained that there may be another 2 containers setting off for Malawi before the Raven Trust is wound up.

Two of the trustees are retiring but a new company may start and have containers shipped out to Malawi, so please keep those knitting needles working.

REFLECTION (TIME TO REMEMBER & REFLECT)

It is with a pretty heavy heart that the Ministry Team have decided to put Reflection (previously known as Time to Remember and Reflect) on the back burner for the moment.

Although we felt that it was a "good product", that it offered a space and a time in the week for people to reflect, read the Bible, pray and think it just didn't seem to be attracting many people. It was originally set up to give those recently bereaved a place to come for support and reflection but it never seemed to meet that need fully.



reflection

a time for
reflection
a sacred space
a place to contemplate
a moment to breathe
on the journey

So in the interests of not overloading the Pastoral Care Core Group and Ministry Team, as well as freeing up more time to develop new initiatives that might help support those who are in need of comfort and solace we have decided to stop Reflection for the moment. We'll continue to pray for a way forward with supporting the pastoral needs of all in our parish.

If you feel a need to visit the church at anytime outwith Sunday services please contact the Kirk Centre and we'd be happy to arrange this.

COMPETITION

Design a CrossReach Christmas card for 2017 Children and Adult Competitions

This year, TWO Competitions with TWO prizes: Children's Competition (age 14 and under) and Adult's Competition.

Winning entries will be printed and sold through the CrossReach "Christmas & Gift Collection 2017" catalogue and website. Winners will each receive a supply of their winning design as printed Christmas Cards.

Competition Guidelines

- › The card must be an original design
- › Submit your card design on a sheet of paper/card no larger than A3 size
- › Computer generated designs must be original and printed out as a hard copy
- › Avoid textures, 3D effects or metallic colours, which can be difficult to reproduce in print
- › You can suggest a Greeting and/or Bible verse for your design
- › Please enclose an appropriate stamped addressed envelope if you wish your design(s) returned to you

The competition is open to all supporters of CrossReach of any age.

Remember to write the name of the person or group who designed the card, age (if age 14 or under) and a contact person's name, address and telephone number on the back of each entry.

While copyright of all entries remains with the entrants, by submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to grant an irrevocable, perpetual and worldwide licence to CrossReach Trading Ltd to use it for the purpose of their Christmas cards and any promotional material connected to that.

Closing date: Monday 27th March 2017

Send your entry to:
Christmas Card Competition
CrossReach, 47 Milton Road East,
Edinburgh EH15 2SR



The Church of Scotland
Social Care Council

Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No: SC011353



CARDBOARD CAFÉ

It's really important we are able to provide a good service for the parents / carers / toddlers and babies who come to Cardboard Café. At the moment we're a bit short staffed. There's a list below of the people we need. You don't have to be a regular at church, just be willing to help.

HELPERS NEEDED:

Every second month:

Auntie/Uncle on the door.

Every month:

one helper

3 general helpers

Every week (for ½ hour):

Someone to help tidy up at 11:30am

Contact Pam or Edith in the Office if you can help with any of these jobs.

NEARLY NEW SALE

The Nearly New Sale takes place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10am – 12noon. The next is **25th March**. Donations of **nearly new** goods can be dropped off on Friday afternoons between 2pm and 3:30pm.

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

Email the Kirk Centre Office if you know of anyone who would like to receive this who doesn't currently.

KNITTING

A HUGE consignment of your knitting was delivered to Dundee recently. Thank you for your efforts.

There has been a request from Aberdeen Maternity Hospital that baby blankets be made up in plain pastel coloured wool - no flecks/stripes please.

ELLON PARISH CHURCH DRAMA GROUP OPEN EVENING

The EPC Drama Group are holding an Open Evening on **Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm** in the Kirk Centre to discuss this year's pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk which takes place from 2nd-5th December.

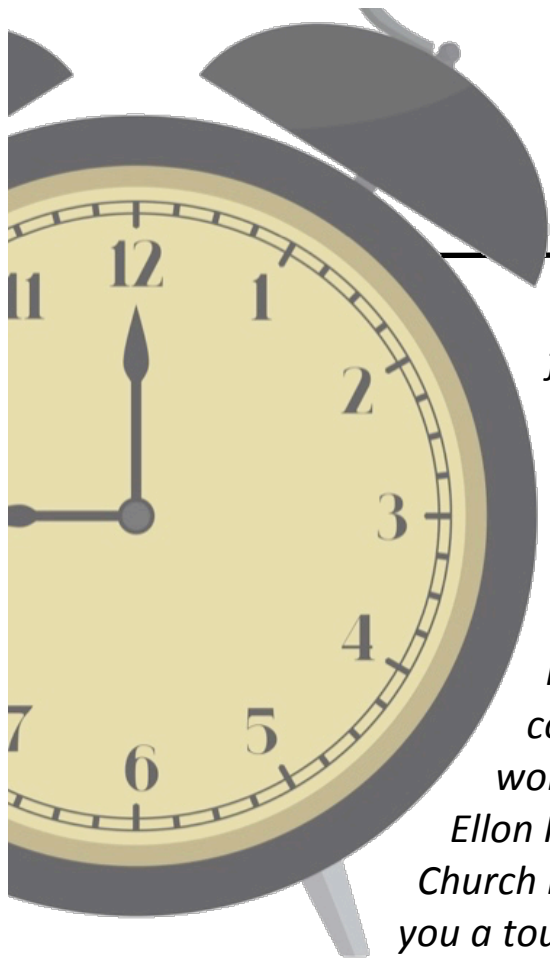
Anyone wishing to take part onstage, backstage or with props, lighting or costumes please come along to meet the cast and crew and enjoy a cup of tea and a chat.

All welcome.

WALKING GROUP

The walking group will restart their weekly walks on Wednesday 29th March @ 6:30pm from the Kirk Centre (weather permitting). For more info contact the Kirk Centre Office.

A 10-Minute Tour Of **THE MINISTRY TEAM**



In the first of a new feature we give you an insight into the core workings of Ellon Parish Church by giving you a tour into the

eccentric, ridiculous and fascinating world of the Ellon Parish Church Ministry Team.

It's no surprise that the nature of ministry and how it is carried out has changed dramatically over the last few years. There's much more emphasis on what is known as Team Ministry and it's becoming increasingly unusual to find a one minister / one parish type of structure. Even in the smallest of parishes there are people exercising different skills and gifts as they serve God where they are.

Ellon Parish Church has a rich history of Team Ministry and for a number of years we've been lucky enough to have centrally paid staff to help with the mission and pastoral work of

what is a very large parish covering the town of Ellon and the rural area surrounding, including Tipperty, Collieston and part of Ythanbank.

In this short guide we aim to give a bit of a picture of who it is we call the Ministry Team.

First off we have, **Rev Alastair Bruce BD (Hons.) Mth PGCE**. Alastair has been the Parish Minister and leader of the Ministry Team since May 2015, when he was ordained and inducted into the charge of Ellon.

Originally hailing from Dalkeith in Midlothian he did have a bit of an insight into life in the North East, having studied in Aberdeen for five years (four at Aberdeen University and one at Northern College doing Teacher Training). He's also married to Nicola who comes from Bucksburn on the edge of Aberdeen, so that helped with understanding a bit of the culture...and a bit of the dialect!

Ministry is a second career for Alastair as he spent the best part of 20 years in various roles in education either working as a class teacher or with children with behavioural problems for Barnardos.

Just before going back to Edinburgh University to study for a Masters in Theology he set up a city-wide project to raise awareness of the needs of Young Carers in Edinburgh.

Alastair is dad to James who is currently 3 ½ and when he gets any free time he likes to play guitar, piano and percussion, binge on box sets like *The West Wing*, *The Big Bang Theory* or *Nashville* or go to the cinema to see anything that looks exciting, especially *Star Wars* or *Star Trek*.

He tries to make sure he gets most of Saturday and Mondays off to spend time making forts out of cushions with James.

Next in the Ministry Team (and this is in no particular order) is **Pam Adam RNMH BD (Hons)**. Pam is the second longest serving member of the

Ministry Team having arrived at Ellon Parish Church in 2009. She originally worked with our older people developing the Care Home Services, helping out with the funeral load and

establishing a number of initiatives aimed at reducing isolation among older people in the parish such as Coffee and Chat, Coffee and Craft. She also developed some events already in existence like adding in the remembrance books to Time to Remember and Reflect. In addition Pam leads the youth group; GsundaY.

During 2015 it was felt that our work with children needed developed and so Pam moved from working with our older people to our young people. Already she has set up and established Cardboard Café and helped support and develop Star Squad. Pam was born and raised in Aberdeen, originally training in the area of learning disabilities nursing but jumped the fence to mental health and went to work in Royal Cornhill. While there she developed an

interest in Older Adults and Dementia.

She studied for a divinity degree in Practical Theology at Kings College

MINISTRY TEAM

HOBBIES

walking
building cushion forts
watching TV
(Nashville, The Big Bang Theory, Star Wars, Star Trek, The West Wing, anything with Mellissa McCarthy, Mary Berry or Emma Thomson)
playing musical instruments (guitar, percussion, piano, organ, clarsach, ukulele)
crocheting
photography

Aberdeen (overlapping a bit with Alastair) then returned as a part time Chaplain to Royal Cornhill. When not 'Chaplaining' she was working in the voluntary sector in the field of Alzheimer's care, and Carers issues.

Over the course of her career she has picked up a number of qualifications to supplement her academics, such as certificates in the pastoral care of young people, transactional analysis, volunteer management and youth leader

training. She is currently working towards a PGD in Person Centred Counselling. Pam is also a former youth worker - Girls' Brigade, Kirk Groups, Advisor in Youth Ministry for Aberdeen Presbytery and being mum to teams of NE Scotland YFC Missions – she now likes spending time with the young and young at heart to reflect cross-generational stuff.

When not at work can be found out and about with a camera herding a group of photographers round places of interest (cats are easier to herd for sure), making jewellery or watching



Star Trek and Dr Who, the last two often at the same time. Her favourite quote is from "A Man in Assynt" by the Scottish poet Norman McCaig: "Who possesses this landscape? - The man who bought it or I who am possessed by it?"

The longest serving member of the Ministry Team is **Alison Young LTCL (GMT) Dip Mus Ed.** who is Director of Music and has been part of the team in Ellon Parish Church for 26 years. She studied music at Aberdeen College of Education and graduated from there as a music teacher in 1979. She taught at Grantown Grammar School for four years before moving to Ellon with her husband, Ian. She was invited to become organist/choirmistress in 1990 and since then the role has developed into what it is today – Director of Music.

Since then, as well as playing the organ and piano and directing the church choir, she has directed several choirs, played for quite a few of our own pantomimes and taught music at home. Currently she is conductor of



Aberdeen Gaelic Choir and the Ythan Singers.

She is mother to three grown up children – Alasdair, Craig and Eilidh – two of whom are still in Ellon. She is looking forward to a visit to her oldest son, Alasdair, in Hong Kong in May.

As well as all her musical activities Alison enjoys walking with Ian (and anyone else from the family who is around!), crocheting, reading, and recently has been trying to find time to learn how to play the clarsach.

The newest (and youngest) member of the

Ministry

Team is

Nicola

Bruce

BD(Hons.)

MTh. Nicola

is a part-

time Parish

Assistant with focus on Mission Development. Nicola has been in post since November 2016 and is enjoying being a part of the growing ministry in Ellon Parish.

Nicola is originally from a farm in Bucksburn, Aberdeen so she is a local lass. She volunteered in youth work from the age of 14 including work with BB, YFC, SU and Newhills Parish Church.

She studied Divinity in Aberdeen University, took on a 2 year youth ministry internship in a large Presbyterian church in Seattle, USA involving coffee, ice cream, big groups, small groups, trips to San Francisco working with the homeless, Mexico to build houses, Scotland to show American young people we do have running water here and a whole lot of sharing God's love.

She returned to Aberdeen University to study, this time a Masters in Ministry and Mission. She took up a Children and Youth Worker position

with 2

Episcopal

Churches in

East Lothian

(with a

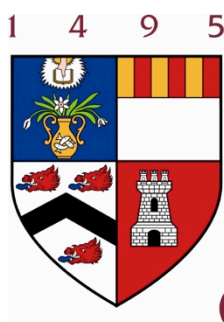
couple of

months

detour

doing

mission work with women and young people in Malawi). During those 4 years she reacquainted with Alastair (having met in Aberdeen years before) and they married in 2008. In 2009 Nicola returned to the Church of Scotland to take up a post in Family & Youth Development with a cluster of 6 churches. There she enjoyed activity days, holiday clubs, Messy Church events, leading worship in various settings,



UNIVERSITY
OF ABERDEEN

preaching, school classes and groups, training, big and small children, youth and family events, outreach events, discipleship groups and working with great volunteers.

In 2013 wee James was born and so in 2014 Nicola returned to work part-time until they moved to Ellon. When Nicola isn't working she is generally found marvelling with James and ensuring Alastair eats!

Nicola enjoys friends, a cuppa and a blether, music, reading, anything with Mary Berry, Melissa McCarthy or Emma Thomson and amusing sitcoms. Mostly she loves journeying with folks as they find out they are loved, they are known and they are welcomed by our Great Big God.

An extra member of the team is **Rev Dr Peter Kiehlmann**. Peter is an OLM (Ordained Local Minister). He writes this about his role:


 *After a process, which took 6 years from initial enquiry to ordination, I have completed my OLM training with the Church of Scotland and was ordained in Belhelvie on the 7th of October to the East Gordon parishes of Belhelvie, Ellon, and Foveran. Thank you to everyone who came and helped to make that event so enjoyable and meaningful.*

"So what are you going to be doing?", you may well ask.

The short answer is "I don't know yet". The longer answer is that this is a new role and I am the first OLM in Gordon presbytery, so I will be working with the ministers of the three churches offering 10 hours per week and letting my role evolve.

God called me to start out on this training, and I am sure that he has work for me to do in helping people meet with him in all the ups and downs of life. The training has equipped me to take communions, baptisms, weddings and funerals, as well as regular services when needed, but as you all know the role of a minister is much more than just church services!

I am looking forward to being involved with folks of all ages from nursing homes through to Mum and toddler groups, and all the life stages in between. I want to be part of the local church which is Jesus's body here in East Gordon, not defined by granite buildings but a living breathing body made up of you the people of God, going about his business, showing his love and bringing his Kingdom in.



THE GOD QUESTION

SCIENCE, RELIGION AND THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH



PART 1 – THE CREATION

AN ILLUSTRATED DISCUSSION BY

ALAN I CAMERON MA BSc

ELLON PARISH CHURCH

WEDNESDAY 29th MARCH 2017 at 7.30pm

ALL WELCOME



EPC DRAMA GROUP'S PANTOMIME "CINDERELLA"

Jenny Green from the Ellon Parish Church Drama Group writes about the sell out success of the 2016 Panto.



dancing. Of course no pantomime is complete without the dames, played this year by David Coutts and Sean Harrison. The colourful costumes and imaginative props/stage settings were created by the group's crew and cast themselves with Liz Gollan taking a leading role.

Highlights with the children this year were Cinderella herself and the carriage horse played by Sam Domeracki and Michael Morrison respectively, who were very busy afterwards with demands for photographs! The show this year raised £4561 towards the Church funds, which is the second highest total since 2008 (2013 was the highest by about £400)



In December the EPC Drama Group entertained audiences of all ages with their wonderful pantomime Cinderella, with **sell out** audiences at each of the five performances.

Written and directed by local lass Clare McLean (nee Gollan), the show created the usual magic with wonderful acting, singing and

The cast are looking forward to beginning rehearsals in May 2017 for Jack and the Beanstalk which will take place from 2 – 5 December 2017. An Open Evening is being held on **Wednesday 19th April at 7.30pm** in the Kirk Centre for anyone who would be interested in joining either the cast or the backstage crew. Come along for an informal chat. There are no auditions – a sense of fun and commitment is all that is required!

ELLON PARISH CHURCH'S MISSION APPEAL 2016

*Every year the Ellon Parish Church Mission Core Group has an appeal to help those in need. **Donna Murray** explains why they chose the Cash For Kids Appeal and what good it did.*

The Mission Core Group were discussing what we could do as our appeal for Christmas 2016. Someone mentioned presents once again but we have always had difficulty in getting an organisation to take them so close to Christmas. I then remembered that I had helped out with Northsound Cash for Kids appeal in November 2015.

What is the Northsound Cash for Kids appeal I hear you ask? The month before Christmas Northsound collect new gifts that are donated so that they can be distributed to the many disadvantaged children who are living in the Northeast. The appeal gets requests from local groups, social workers and Doctors to help out children who without the appeal would have nothing at Christmas. After some discussion it was decided that we would like to help.



The appeal gets requests ... to help out children who ... would have nothing at Christmas.

Mary started the ball rolling with a Christmas Tree at the Ellon Gala, there were tags on the tree with ages of children and the choice of boy or girl. Any gift at any price for the age and gender of the child you picked was appropriate. There was a collection point in the church for your unwrapped gift.

The Appeal itself was officially launched on the 18th November by which point we already had a great selection of gifts waiting for collection. The

first uplift we had from Northsound was a whopping **nine black bags full** and we had at least another **three** after that.

Over 7000 children were helped by the appeal in 2016 and I am proud to say that Ellon Parish Church were a part of this.

CHRISTMAS 2016

*Alison Young, Nicola Bruce, Janet Adie, Pam Adam
and Alastair Bruce write about the various things that went
on over Christmas last year.*



Coffee and Carols

On Saturday 17th
December the choir
and friends hosted
a Coffee and
Carols
evening. The
church
looked
lovely with
the
Christmas
tree all lit up
and the flower
arrangements all

around the church. The tables looked
very festive and inviting thanks to
Janet and her Pastoral Care Team.

The Church Choir along with our
friends (some others from the
congregation who joined us
specifically for this event) sang a
mixture of carols and Christmas
songs including "Sleep Holy Child"
the solo of which was beautifully
sung by Jean Stevenson, "What Child
is this?", "Raggle Taggle Three Wise

Men" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed
Reindeer".

Fiona Grant and Alison Young
entertained us with two piano duets
namely, "Once in Royal David's City"
and "The First Nowell". This was
Fiona's first public performance since
taking up piano lessons again after
many years. She was very brave and
played well and this was greatly
appreciated by the audience!

One of the highlights of the evening
was a rendition of "A Fowl
Christmas" by Lynn Paterson and
Charlie Burgess. The song portrays
the discussion between a turkey and
a goose on their probable demise at
Christmas time. Along with props
and costumes, Lynn and Charlie
made a great turkey and a great
goose! We had a couple of intervals
during the evening during which
coffee/tea and fine pieces were
served. The evening was rounded off
with a selection of carols and songs
for both audience and choir.

It was a lovely evening and was a break from the Christmas hustle and bustle that seems to be inevitable at this time. A good start to the

Christmas season when we celebrate the birth in Bethlehem of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Alison Young

Over 60's Christmas Carol Party

It's become something of a tradition for the hard working Pastoral Care team to host a party in the Church for the slightly more mature members of our Church Community. It's usually good fun and this Christmas was no exception.

Over 70 keen partygoers were greeted with

fruity mulled wine (Pam's special recipe) and soft drinks before settling down at festive tables to have good fun and fellowship. The programme for the afternoon included singing popular carols and Christmas songs lead by Alison Young; fitting Doric Readings from



Margaret Cantlay; a Christmas carol quiz which was hotly contested, and even a game of Heads and Tails!

A lovely afternoon tea was had and lots of fun and fellowship shared

before it was time to go out and face the demands of the season again.

Throughout the year there are lots of opportunities to enjoy fellowship within Ellon Parish Church and if you enjoy helping out, the Pastoral Care Team would love you to join them!

Janet Adie

Acoustic Café

Continuing the musical theme this Christmas we enjoyed a more chilled and casual time at an Acoustic Cafe featuring our own "Triple A's plus" (I joined on harmonies but inconveniently my name doesn't begin with an "A"!). The setting was

the inviting warmth and Christmas glow of our fantastic "On the Square" Coffee Shop. Greeted with twinkling lights and a mince pie (and Pam shaking her charity red bucket slightly menacingly) the evening kicked off with coffee and a mixture

of carols, Christmas songs by the likes of Chris Tomlin and Bebo Norman, and covers to enjoy such as Snow Patrol and Glee. The community singing was perhaps less raucous than at Beer and Carols though by the time we encouraged one another to "Don't Stop Believing" and reminisced of "A Fairytale in New York" we were all



swaying away and ready bring things down to a "Silent Night".

A warm and wonderful fairy lit night of friends, music and festive cheer and a chance to breathe amidst the hustle and

bustle of the festive season.

Nicola Bruce

Beer and Carols (aka A Kirk in the Pub)

It started like so many other things as one of the ministry team saying I have this ridiculous idea to do carol singing in one of the pubs. Then we found out it is a "thing" which happens in other parts of the country as a fundraiser.

That was another dimension added, we thought about having a bucket to raise money for a music resource for the local primary schools. **Fischy Music** does a lot of songs on emotional as well as spiritual



wellbeing some of the heads were excited about this as they had been looking at the resource and trying to look at how to fund it , so EPC to the rescue. Nicola was dispatched to test

the waters of the pubs in Ellon and the Tollbooth was the one chosen as the venue.

The evening itself was loud, the pub was rocking to the sounds of carols played by the band, two A's and guests. There was a motley Crew of backing singers from the kirk, in case no-one joined in but

there was no fear of that from the Ellon Christmas week revellers. The place was buzzing with carols and pies and good cheer.

It was an awesome night, the regulars of the pub were well into the festivities, a mums night out was giving it laldy and I got an awesome response when I said what the bucket was coming round for.

We had over £200 towards the resource in the bucket at the end of the night but even better, the landlord wants us back and for days afterwards we were the spik o the toon for a good reason, good rumours of EPC working outwith it's walls showing church is not just a Sunday thing it's a ridiculous every day anywhere amazing thing.

Pam Adam

Christmas & New Year Worship

Along with all the community events over Christmas we also simply worshipped. We journeyed through advent thinking about the real meaning of Christmas with our theme *Advent Conspiracy*.

Recognising that many people find Christmas a hard time of year we held our annual **Christmas Lights**

service to give a moment of calm, stillness and reflection in amongst the busyness.

On Christmas Eve the church was packed for the **Christingle / PJ / Onsie** Service with many people choosing to either dress up in their onsie a new set of PJs or a new

Christmas jumper. Lots of people commented on how lovely the service was especially when the lights were turned off to sing Still the Night. Then just before midnight Eddie Graham led **Watchnight Service** in Collieston Community



Centre, while Alastair Bruce led the **Watchnight Service** in Ellon. Both were well received and a

brilliant way to celebrate the Incarnation.

On **Christmas Day** a smaller number of worshippers gathered to celebrate the morning of Jesus birth. James and Harriet (dressed as Batman and Rapunzel) had a great time exploring

and allowing Alastair to play with their new toys.

We had a well earned break from all the activities until New Year's Day when in Ellon and Slains we

celebrated the start of 2017 by singing and exploring the meaning behind some favourite **Hymns of the Faith**.

Alastair Bruce

Christmas Lights Switch On



There was a panic at the beginning of the festive season when it was thought that there wouldn't be a Christmas lights switching on parade or event. However, a group of very helpful people from the community decided that this couldn't be and set about making sure the event could

go on. Ellon Parish Church were part of this, providing somewhere warm to shelter and heat up from the cold evening, as well as a stall of free home bakes, tea, coffee and hot chocolate. We were even able to gather on the front steps of the church to see the fireworks going off.



GAP YEAR INFORMATION EVENING

IN S5 OR S6 AND THINKING ABOUT WHAT
HAPPENS ONCE YOU LEAVE SCHOOL?
GOT A TEENAGER ABOUT TO LAUNCH OUT
INTO THE WORLD?
THIS MIGHT BE FOR YOU...

THURSDAY
30TH MARCH

ST.
ANDREWS
CHURCH
HALL
INVERURIE
6:30-9PM
DROP IN

THE HALL WILL BE OPEN
FROM 6:30 FOR YOU TO
FIND INFORMATION ON
DIFFERENT GAP YEAR
OPTIONS WITH CHURCHES
AND CHRISTIAN
CHARITIES.

7:30-8:15 PRESENTATION
ON THE PRO'S AND CON'S
OF TAKING A GAP YEAR

A BIT ABOUT 'ALPHA'

Nicola Bruce our Parish Worker (Mission Development) explains about the Alpha Course that's running at Ellon Parish Church

"I invite you to go home to your own house" is how our last Alpha course started! Alastair and I invited a group of people to spend 10 dinners and a day event with us to explore the Alpha Course. James wasn't too sure about all these "funny looking people" coming to our house every Friday night. But soon he learned they were his "grown up friends" and that the men would wind him up and play with him and the women would bring him presents!

Alpha is a 10 or 12 week course that explores questions of life and the Christian faith. It's for anyone

interested in exploring or deepening faith whether they have decades of church background or none at all. The format is simple: dinner, video, discussion. At first the invited participants were a bit apprehensive of what this would involve: "What if I don't like the food?" "What if I have to speak in a discussion?" "What if someone asks me a question?" "What if I don't know the answers?" They soon found that the food is always good, the videos engaging and the discussion is simply that: discussion.

No one is expected to have any answers, all thoughts are welcome. No one has to speak if they don't want to....though everyone soon did! And everyone's contribution is valued.

Over those dinners we became comfortable with each other. Over the videos we began thinking together.

Over the discussions we build up a trust in each other and became able to talk, listen and question. In the day event we had an opportunity for worship and for prayer and many said they found a peace and a connection that day.



So it was agreed that this Alpha journey was a good idea and meeting to discuss our faith is a good thing. So the Ministry Team is looking at developing home groups to further those discussions and we have launched our 2nd course. James hasn't invited anyone to go back to their own homes...yet! The journey continues...

If you are interested in Alpha more info can be found at ellonparishchurch.org.uk/alpha or speak to Nicola, Alastair or the current helpers Mary Paterson, Neil and Elaine Henderson, Ann and Allan Bruce.

THE NEARLY NEW SALE

The leader of the Nearly New Sale Team, Ann Gammack writes about how the Nearly New Sales have fared in the last year, and what their upcoming plans are.

In 2016 the money raised from the Nearly New Sales was **£4682** which was very much appreciated in this current climate.

They again proved to be a very worthy fund raising event for the church especially providing good fellowship and a

chance for people to meet on a Saturday morning even if it is only to browse through all the goods that we have on offer including clothes, books, bric-a-brac, bargain table and linens etc.

It has always been of great interest to the team the different types of goods that are for sale which just goes to show what people will buy. We as a team always have a good

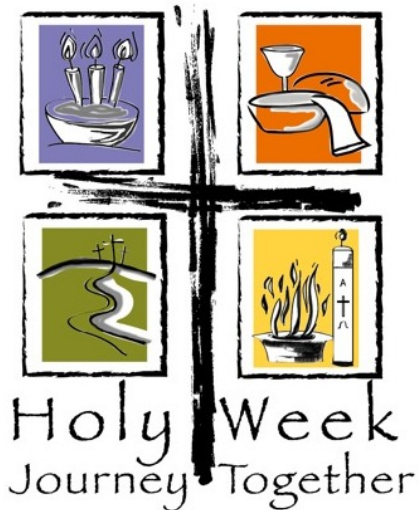
laugh which has proved to be one of the reasons that it has been so successful over the years.



We began 2017 as we mean to go on with the usual items for sale, but this year we would hope to include a couple of book sales as in this day and age of kindle we

still seem to get a vast range of books to sell.

It is also our intention to perhaps hold an auction at the end of November but it will be a case of "Watch this space". If you are free on a Saturday morning we would invite you to come along and see yourself what is happening with regard to the "Nearly New Sales" and enjoy the fellowship along the way.



ELLON CHURCHES ECUMENICAL HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Monday 10 April 2017 | 7:30pm | **Ecumenical Worship Service**
Led by all churches | **Venue: St Mary-On-The-Rock Episcopal Church**
Refreshments afterwards

Tuesday 11 April 2017 | 7:30pm | **Ecumenical Worship Service**
Led by Ellon Parish Church | **Venue: Ellon Parish Church**
Refreshments afterwards

Wednesday 12 April 2017 | 7:30pm | **Ecumenical Worship Service**
Led by Ellon Baptist Church | **Venue: St Mary-On-The-Rock Episcopal Church**
Refreshments afterwards

Thursday 13 April 2017 | 7:30pm | **Ecumenical Worship Service**
Led by City Church, Ellon | **Venue: Ellon Parish Church**
Refreshments afterwards

Friday 14 April 2017 | 10:30am | **Walk Of Witness**
Meet at St Mary-On-The-Rock | **Finish at Ellon Parish Church**
Refreshments afterwards

Friday 14 April 2017 | 7:30pm | **Ecumenical Worship Service**
Led by St Mary-On-The-Rock | **Venue: St Mary-On-The-Rock Episcopal Church**
Refreshments before in the hall (7pm)

Sunday 16 April 2017 | 7am | **Early Morning Ecumenical Easter Day Worship**
Led by all churches | **Venue: Old Bridge Over the Ythan**
Tea, coffee, bacon rolls afterwards in Ellon Parish Church

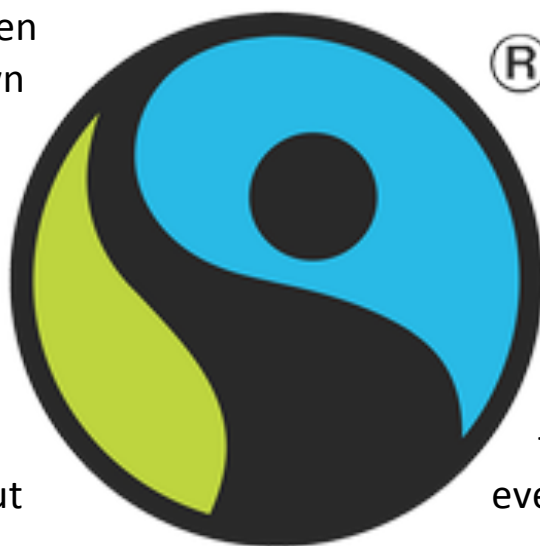
FAIRTRADE COOKING DEMONSTRATION

The Fairtrade Team report on the very succesful cooking demonstration held recently.

On Monday 6th March Ellon Parish Church Fairtrade team held a cookery demonstration in which mainly Fairtrade ingredients were used. One of the current themes of the Fairtrade movement is “Don’t feed exploitation”. The cooks were Sandra Beaton and Helen Smillie, both well-known locally for their skills, and the promise of an interesting evening attracted around 100 people. Dishes made included salmon kedgeree, chocolate cheesecake and coconut and lime drizzle cake.

Fairtrade wine was served, mainly donated by Tesco and the Coop. It was a very busy night for the cooks who did a brilliant job and everyone enjoyed the entertainment.

The team was delighted to raise **£329** and we also sold around **£300** of Fairtrade food and gifts. All money raised will go to Fairtrade. In the last couple of years, with the support of Ellon people, we have been able to donate some Fairtrade goods to



organisations within the church, £300 to the Tanzania bee appeal and £500 to the Kenyan farmers appeal.

Many thanks to all who contributed in any way to the success of the event and watch this space, as they say, for details

FAIRTRADE

of our third charity Christmas sale, at which around 15

charities will be selling their Christmas goods. It will be held on September 30th in the Kirk Centre.

ELLON PARISH CHURCH IS ON FACEBOOK.



Search for “Ellon Parish Church” and ‘like’ us to receive all the latest updates.

A BIT ABOUT ACTIVITY DAYS & STAR SQUAD

WEDNESDAYS & SUNDAYS

*Our Mission Development Parish Worker **Nicola Bruce** writes all about Activity Days and Star Squad (Wednesdays & Sundays.)*

Activity days are day events for primary age children either on a Saturday or on School In Service Days/Holidays.

They have been a great development in the last year. So far together we have run 7 full days of adventure, song, fun, games, art, crafts, time with friends, new friends and with Jesus.

Over those days we have had 71 children in total, not all at

once...which is probably for the best! A lot have returned and each club has picked up new children.

This is only possible with the willing and amazing help from a team of fantastic volunteers who do a range of tasks be that shepherding a small group, serving tea and snacks,

welcoming at the door, cutting out templates, singing, dancing, praying, colouring, reassuring, smiling, playing... all of it is essential to the

growing ministry we have with children and their families in our parish.

The vast majority of the children that have come have no other connection to a church so to them the stories and songs are new and its great to experience those stories as if for the first time; the children have

amazing insights. God knows and loves each one and it is a privilege and joy for us to serve them and give them an opportunity to encounter God's love and the love of His people, as well as giving them a great time on a day off!

Dates for the rest of the year for your diaries:

Activity days:

Monday 5th June (Ellon school holiday)

November 13th & 14th (In-service days)

Summer mornings:

Mon 3rd-Fri 7th July 10-12.30.

More plans are afoot for that week so more info to follow, look out for news on ellonparishchurch.co.uk/activity-days or on [@ellonparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/ellonparishchurch) on facebook

“ Today was brilliant, why do I need to wait so long until the next one?!”

For those who just can't wait until the next awesome activity day we have **STAR SQUAD**.

At our 10am church service in Ellon we all join together for the first part of the service: welcome, prayer, song, story, song (this one is usually one from activity days) and then Star Squad and Twinkle Stars head through to the wee chapel. There we welcome, sing, have pennies for charity collected, open the star squad box to look for clues to what we will be doing. Then Twinkle Stars (0yrs-preschool) head through to the Vestry for their fab activities and Star Squad (p1-p7) stay in the wee chapel for their challenges and fun activities. We then join again for a final song in the wee

chapel. Star Squad & Twinkle Stars usually lasts a little longer than the service so any parents/carers can have a cuppa after the service.

What about during the week?

For Twinkle Stars during the week we have Cardboard Cafe on a Friday open in the Kirk Centre from 9.30-11.30am. For Star Squad we are excited to announce **STAR SQUAD:WEDNESDAY EDITION** will start on **Wednesday 3rd May, 3.30pm-4.30pm in our Kirk Centre**. It will be like activity day in an hour! Brilliant! It's free and will include a wee after school snack, games, songs, story, art, craft...all the usual. For parents and carers we will have a nice comfy room along the corridor set up with tea, coffee and cake so you can catch up and have a blether. For more info and to register for STAR SQUAD see ellonparishchurch.co.uk/children or contact the office or Pam.



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Jesus says: "I am the way and the truth and the life"

Baptism

Vanessa Grace Walker

daughter of Craig Walker and Karen Yule Walker

Funerals

Andrea Thomson

Annie (Nan) Duncan

Marjorie Hughes

Rosemary Tomlinson

Catherine Greig

Arthur Robertson

James (Jim) Tulloch

Beryl Bertha Willets

James (Jimmy) Johnstone

Alexander (Sandy) Beedie

Charles Pirie

Austin Sandford

Douglas Davidson

Dorothy May Walker

Moira Reith

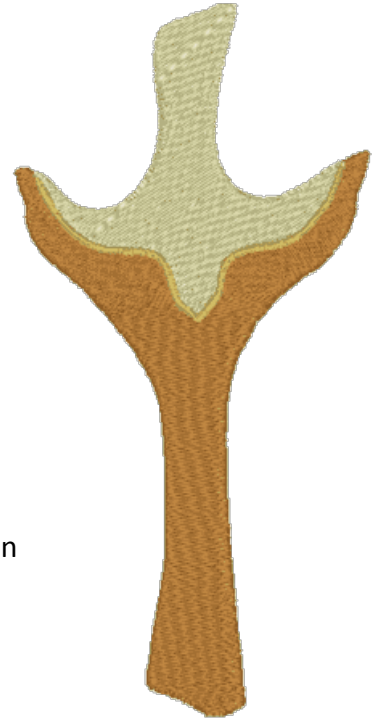
John Taylor

Henry Milne

Robert (Bob) Morrison

John Sutherland

Colin Fraser



FLOWER MINISTRY



Many thanks to the following for providing flowers in January and February to enhance our worship and to bring the comfort of the light of Christ to those in our parish in need of support.

Mrs C Bartlet, Mrs E Reid, Mrs P Munro, Mrs Paterson, Ms L Anderson, Mrs E Thomson, Mrs K Minty, Mrs P Morrison, Mrs L Paterson, Mrs M Johnstone, Mrs M Stevenson, Mrs E Davidson, Mrs D Davidson, Ms A Gammack, Mrs Kelly, Mrs A Fraser, Mrs E Gollan, Mrs W Moir.

CURRENT SERMON SERIES (UNTIL EASTER DAY)



To catch up on any sermons you may have missed or the "benchMARK" series go to www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk/sermons

CONTACT DETAILS

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Alastair JS Bruce | Parish Minister | c/o The Kirk Centre, Station Rd, Ellon
| t. 01358 723 787 | e. abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk | Days off: Saturday
and Monday

Pam Adam | Parish Worker (Children and Families Development) | The Kirk
Centre, Station Rd, Ellon | e. padam@churchofscotland.org.uk | t. 01358 725
690 | Working days for Ellon: Thursday, Friday & Sunday

Nicola Bruce | Parish Worker (Mission Development) | The Kirk Centre,
Station Rd, Ellon | e. nbruce@churchofscotland.org.uk | t. 07711 223100 |
working days: Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday

Alison Young | Director of Music | c/o The Kirk Centre, Station Rd, Ellon |
e. assanyoung@hotmail.com | 01358 721196

ORDAINED LOCAL MINISTER (OLM)

Rev Dr Peter Keihlmann | Ordained Local Minister | c/o The Kirk Centre,
Station Rd, Ellon | e. pkiehlmann@churchofscotland.org.uk | | t. 01358 725
690

KIRK CENTRE

Edith Walker | Administrator | The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon |
e. thekirk@btinternet.com | t. 01358 725 690 |

Working hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 12noon & 12:30pm – 2:30pm

www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk

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