



THE BRIDGE

Magazine of Ellon Parish Church



J U L Y
AUGUST
2 0 1 7

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) (STARTS BACK ON 6TH SEPT)

Primary School aged children | 3:30pm – 4:30pm | Wednesday | games | songs | craft | Bible story | snack | 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 (RESUMES AFTER THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS)

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.

CHURCH TRANSPORT

If you cannot get to church because of lack of transport, the BB CHURCH BUS could take you there and back.

For more details contact **Anne Milne** (01358 720040)

Please don't forget to let Anne know if you are NOT requiring transport on any one or more Sundays. Thank you.



MUSINGS FROM THE MINISTER

Ellon Parish Church minister **Rev Alastair Bruce** muses about our starting place and on how inspiring and challenging our stories of faith can be.



Simon Sinek

Simon Sinek is a writer, speaker and ethnologist. His talk “Why Great Leaders Inspire Action” is the fourth most watched TED¹ talk of all time. In the talk he suggests that many companies and organisations know **what** it is they do, and some of them know **how** they do it, but few know **why** they do what they do.

He says that the great companies, like Apple or Northwest Airlines and even the great leaders of our time

¹ TED is a nonprofit devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, powerful talks (18 minutes or less). TED began in 1984 as a conference where Technology, Entertainment and Design converged, and today covers almost all topics — from science to business to global issues — in more than 100 languages.

like Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr. have a clear idea of **why** they do what they do.

His belief is that most companies work from **what** to **how** and never really get to the **why**. Most companies tell us **what** they do and then try to persuade us to buy what it is they’re selling. He says if Apple were one of those companies they would market their products like this:

“We make great computers, they’re beautifully designed and easy to use. Want to buy one?”

But great companies like Apple reverse the order.

They start with **why**.

They say:

“In everything we do we believe in challenging the status quo and thinking differently. The way we do this is to make our products beautifully designed and easy to use. It just happens that we make great computers. Want to buy one?”

They start with their **why**.

Another successful company a little nearer home in an article entitled **“Why we do what we do”** James Watt, the founder of BrewDog says:

“For us, everything comes back to one overarching ambition and one



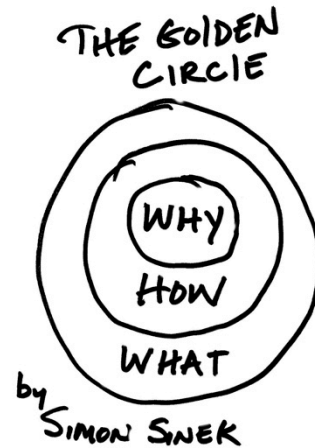
guiding light: to make other people as passionate about great craft beer as we are. We want to show

people there is an alternative to monotonous corporate brews, introduce them to a completely new approach to beer while elevating the status of beer in our culture.”

They start with their **why**.

They define themselves by their **why**.

Simon Sinek calls his theory the golden circle.



He goes on to say that the golden circle is backed up by biological fact. He says that if you take a cross section of the brain then it corresponds in a simplistic fashion to these three circles. The outer layers are our rational and analytical brain, the bit that decides to eat celery and boiled potatoes and not burger and chips.

The inner part called the limbic brain is where feelings and emotion comes from, and it's also where decisions are made. It has no power over language. The limbic brain is where gut decisions come from.

When we communicate from the outside in we engage the rational

part of the brain but not the feelings which is why even rational decisions can sometimes not feel right. What's more is that the limbic brain is so powerful it can outweigh the rational part of our brains. That's where innovation and taking risks comes from. It's also why sometimes we choose to eat burger and chips instead of celery and boiled potato even though we know which is better for us.

Although he's talking about companies and organisations there are of course principles that the church can learn from. As a church we spend a lot of time talking about what it is we do and sometimes we talk about how we are going to do it, but all too rarely do we have a conversation about why the church matters to us and why the church should matter to our community. Generally the message that comes from Ellon Parish Church is something like this; *"come and hear the new minister..."*, *"come and join us for worship on a Sunday..."*, *"come and help with Cardboard Café..."*, *"come and help in the coffee shop..."*, *"join a core group..."* etc etc.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with saying these things, it shows our

enthusiasm towards the church but it's just that they're not all that inspiring.

They are all about **what** we do.

We need to change our message.

We need to tell people **why** we believe what we believe and **why** Ellon Parish Church matters. But even more importantly than any of that, is communicating in all we do

why our faith matters to us, not just on a Sunday, but on a Sunday and through the rest of the week and our lives.

In the last few weeks I've had some conversations with folks in the congregation who

either attended the recent Alpha Courses, or heard folks speaking about them, as well as from my sermon on Sunday 18th June, and it's clear that stories of faith and our journeys of faith are inspiring.

These are our **whys**, they explain to people why faith in Jesus Christ has changed them in some way. These are our stories and they inspire. The disciples were changed by Jesus' message. They followed Him and



We need to tell people **why** we believe what we believe and **why** Ellon Parish Church matters.

eventually would die for that message because he inspired them.

Jesus knew his **why**.

Jesus knew that his purpose was to show the world how to live in servanthood and love. And the ultimate display of that was the ultimate reason why God sent Jesus to our world: to die so we could be friends with God again. Out of love and sacrifice Jesus laid down his life for his friends (John 15:13). The story you read in the Bible about Jesus' life is inspiring and life changing because he shows his **why**.

That inspiration and example continues in the members of the congregation of our church. As you read through this edition of The Bridge you'll read about **Ian Adie's** journey of faith and his commissioning service as a Street Pastor, you'll read from **Elaine**

Henderson about why community is so important and you'll hear from **Charlie Davidson** who attended the recent Alpha Course and comes to the Connect service about how a book by writer Rob Bell has inspired her faith. You'll read about the incomparable **Morag Doak** and her contribution to the community of Ellon through the Girls' Brigade (as well as the church and her family). You'll also read about the **new vision statement** and **logo** the Kirk Session have put together to help us all at Ellon Parish Church explain and articulate our **why**.

I hope these stories encourage, challenge and inspire you as much as they have inspired me. Happy reading.

And maybe these stories will inspire you in your own story and journey of faith.

Ellon Parish Church is a charity registered in Scotland No.008819

Ellon Parish Church
Kirk Fest
3rd - 8th
July

All Free Entry

More Info:
www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk or fb.com/ellonparishchurch or from the Kirk Centre

Holiday Club
Monday - Friday | 10am-12noon
P1 - P7 | Kirk Centre

Afternoon Beach Fun
Monday & Wednesday
2:30pm - 4pm | Collieston Beach
Come and play some games

Cardboard Cafe
Friday | 9:30am - 11:30am

Summer Evenings
Tuesday: PJ/Onesie Family Film Fun | 6pm-8pm | Kirk Centre
Thursday: Quiz & Acoustic Cafe 7pm | Kirk Centre

Coffee & Chat
Thursday | 2pm - 3:30pm
Ellon Parish Church

Kirk Fest BBQ
Saturday | 10:30am - 1pm
12 Union Street | Games

CARDBOARD CAFÉ IS ONE (AND A BIT)

Pam Adam, our Children and Families Development Worker tells the story of the birth and first year of Cardboard Café.



A long time ago in a pub far away (Durness to be exact) myself and two friends, a parent of a child with additional support needs, also a paediatric nurse, and an English teacher with specialist training in additional support needs, got talking about preschool education and how we would do it if given the chance. Included in the mix of the conversation were stations with free play, mess, crafting, stories, making toys from boxes and junk and outdoor exploring.

Fast forward to 2016 and Alastair and I sat down to look at a Parent/Carer babies and toddler

group and from the recess of my mind came an ancient idea.

Cardboard Café.

The name was being used in Stirling but after a bit of asking about I found it had closed so we had a name and a concept which we tweaked with the help of our Mum's focus group (AKA Karen and Nicola). My menu was just a bit too posh and footery so we went with a help yourself table with the new Organix snacks now available.

Right from the start it was to be donation only so it could include all

families. A lot of baby and toddler classes charged and for parents of several young children they may be beyond reach. So we have our donation tin which covers the money we pay Iris for teas each week, so Cardboard Café is raising money for the church in a roon about way.

Next we approached Kirk members for volunteers. A willing team came forward of aunties and uncles and on **March 18th 2016** we were off.

Word got out and on our first day we had 30 users and it exploded from there . One week we had 92 we were literally bursting out the door.

Thankfully it has calmed down a bit now to between 50 – 65 users each week. We have had special days with **Jo Jingles**, and **The Critter Keeper** (that was thanks to GsundaY's fairy godmum who is now Cardboard café's as well!!)

In the holidays we have Cardboard Extra when we welcome Primary aged Siblings to the chaos.

We have tweaked and developed and are grateful for donations from a Kirk member and the Ellon Round Table which have allowed us to create a safe comfortable baby area with a corral and mats. We've also made our story corner matted as well. Other donations enabled us to buy big toys.



We have seen our first groups move up to school and nursery and new babies come and take their place. It's great watching them graduate from the corral to the free play space.

Over the year **4000** places have been used. There are lots of ways to help just ask me next time

you see me emerging from the Slains Hall covered in glitter and sweat.

All the best ideas are born in pubs but it takes faith and God being in charge for it make a difference to families in Ellon. It's been an honour to be part of the growing up of our Cardboarders.

Here's to the next year and our 2nd birthday.



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

Tables with access to play materials can now be booked in the St Ternan's Hall.



POINT TO PONDER

Elaine Henderson convenor of the Pastoral Care Core Group ponders the role of community in the light of recent events and our faith in Jesus.

Just as I started thinking about Community for the theme for Points to Ponder, the news about the terrible events in London was beginning to break.

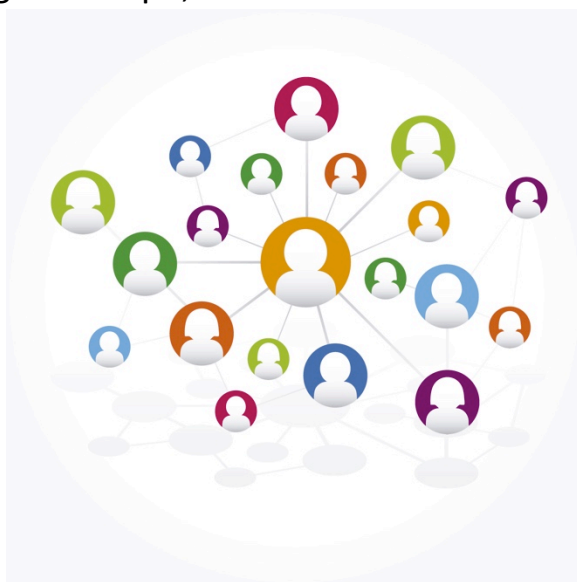
In the midst of the heart-breaking coverage there were signs of hope, hope in the actions of families and communities coming together. Despite the many things that can separate us if we let them, there is so much more which unites. We may be many different colours, have different backgrounds and cultures or different faiths but if we put our faith into action to serve our communities these differences are overcome.

To do this we have to give time, the time it takes to be kind and just listen and perhaps help someone to find peace of mind.

The time to let someone know you are there, to do things to help without expecting something in return.

To take the time to show that your care.

It was these little things which were given in abundance in the early hours of Sunday morning, the offer of lifts, shelter and a shoulder to lean on.



These are the hallmarks of community. We see this in our own community as the gentle hand of friendship and community is given to the Syrian New Scots as they make their home in Ellon.

How do we create community? We have the best possible example in Jesus, who showed us how to live our lives. How do we start to change? To become a community based on love – a verse from a poem called “Community” by Roland Fleming points out very succinctly the answer.....

**“WELL I START WITH MYSELF
I ASK FOR HELP
I START WITH ME
I BE THE CHANGE I WANT TO SEE”**

.....**Community** is down to each of us.

THE BIG SING

Ellon Parish Church Director of Music Alison Young writes about the tremendous Big Sing that recently took place in Ellon Parish Church



On Friday 2nd June Ellon Parish Church hosted a Big Sing event in honour of Mairi Munro and to raise some money for the charities Mairi supported during her illness. Mairi was a well known lady in and around Ellon for many different reasons. Many of you will have known her for her toddlers' music

group Tot Tunes and a lot of primary school children will remember her teaching them music via the Kodaly method. She was also a driving force in the town's Fairtrade steering group 10 or so years ago and did a lot for that charity both in how she lived herself and by promoting goods to others.

However it is her involvement with the Iona Community and particularly the Wild Goose Group that was the catalyst for our Big Sing event in June. Before she was married Mairi had travelled all over the world searching out Christian songs from many countries and different cultures from Hawaii to China to Africa and lots more in between. She loved music and loved to sing and was well known for getting large groups

of people to sing in four parts within a matter of minutes. There was no such

thing as “I can’t sing” in Mairi’s eyes! She led a couple of Big Sing events for Christian Aid in Ellon Parish Church a few years ago before she was ill so it seemed the most fitting way to honour the work Mairi had done in promoting songs from all over the world.

Rev John Bell who is an ordained Church of Scotland minister and a fellow member of the Iona Community came up from Glasgow

to lead us in this special event. Together with the Wild Goose Group John has been all round the world singing and collecting music from the world churches. He has composed and arranged lots of hymns and songs many of which we sing in Ellon Parish Church at our Sunday worship. He was accompanied by Christine Reid and Stuart Muir who are both involved with the Wild Goose Group.



The evening was entitled “Sing with the Worlda selection of songs sung in churches throughout the globe” and we were delighted to welcome a big crowd into

the church that night. We had sold 70 tickets beforehand but many more turned up at the door so the church was full! John began the evening with the song “Over my head I hear Music in the air” an African American Spiritual and interspersed the evening with stories about Mairi and the places she had been listening to and collecting songs. There were poignant stories and very funny stories both of Mairi’s

travels and his own experiences all over the world.

We sang songs from Nigeria, Malawi, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mexico, El Salvador, Argentina, Philippines, Singapore, Nepal, Korea, Hawaii and from here in Scotland.

Some of the songs were unaccompanied, some were in unison, some we sang in parts and some were accompanied by Stuart on the piano.

It was a great evening of music and song and we raised over £1400 to be

divided between Maggies and the Brain Tumour Trust both charities that Mairi supported.

Appropriately we ended the evening with the song “There is a line of Women” set to the tune The Seven Joys of Mary which tells of the importance of women in shaping our history throughout the ages and of the women who stood by Jesus all through his life here on earth.

What better way to celebrate someone who walked with Jesus all through her life – Mairi Munro.

Join the adventure
coming in September 2017

Alpha

Alpha.org
#TryAlpha

Refuel 17
...we scatter....then we gather

THE FILLING STATION
SCOTLAND

Festival of Faith for all the family
23RD - 29TH JULY
GORDON CASTLE ESTATE, MORAY,
SCOTLAND

Bruzy Cavity | Dr Andy Bannister | Sir Andy Hawthorn | Dr Barbara Jenkinson | Brian Doerksen | Allan McKinlay | David Ross | Rowan | Heartsong



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.*

Like many other people I cannot believe how this year is flying past and once again the Kirk Session met for their last meeting until September.

For opening worship Elders sang with great gusto and enthusiasm Hymn 522 "The Church is Wherever Gods People are praising." Quoting verse 3 "conveying the Gospel its joy and its comfort, to challenge, refresh, and excite and inspire" we as a Kirk Session as well as the Ministry and Leadership teams, through taking all of the bits of paper and reports generated from the Kirk Session conference and Future Focus, have been researching and trying to find our why so that the message coming from Ellon Parish Church is inspiring and clear.

Most companies know what they do – some know how they do it – few know why they do it.

So, we need to change our message to convey why we do things.

This is what Jesus did.

He didn't come saying that people needed to follow a 12-step plan to get into the club, he didn't say that they should join a group to be involved in the workings of the Temple, he said that he came to serve and to give his life so we could be God's friends again because *God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.* (John 3:16)

Reports were submitted by the Teams outlining their work since the last meeting and some points of information which were approved by the Session included: -

PASTORAL CARE - outlined their report noting visitations to Church organisations; welcoming of families to Church and a rebranding and promotion of coffee and chat/craft.

MISSION - highlighted the need to maintain the impetus set by the previous activity days into the activity week due to run from the 3rd to 7th July and the Activity Day on June 5th. The team will again have a presence at Ellon Gala and it is also hoped to be able to provide a church presence at Collieston Gala later in the summer.

EDUCATION – Plans are in place for “a conversation with” evenings. This will be an interview type format with discussion and questions and

answers. The mid-week Star Squad began on Wednesday 3rd May. 8 children attended and parents met in the Tipperty Room.

COMMUNICATION - The group continue to consider the draft Policy Document. As well as considering

designs for a new logo for Ellon parish Church. The return to a booklet format of the newsletter has been very well received with folk having fond memories of the former ‘Bridge’ quarterly magazine, although the content and layout is very different. The intention is to have a number of people contributing to the publication in many ways, offering variety and interest.

LEADERSHIP TEAM - in the continued search for an Associate Minister the post will be advertised in “Christianity” magazine which is a nationwide publication. It will also go on their website. Following the offer from an anonymous donator to replace the Church Bibles the Leadership Team

Recent ventures & ideas from the Core Groups

- New Logo for Ellon Parish Church
- Replacing the current church Bibles with the New International Version (NIV)
- A bigger presence at the Ellon & Collieston Galas
- Ideas to rebrand Coffee and Chat/Craft
- A vision statement for Ellon Parish Church
- New “The Bridge” magazine
- Kirk Fest week of activities for the whole church in first week of July

took the opportunity to look at a number of versions of the Bible, it was felt that the New International Version was the preferred option as a replacement for the current Church Bibles. A more in-depth article on the vision and the beginning of a visual identity for Ellon Parish Church can be found in a separate article but this was also presented and approved.

Anne Wilson, who is one of the **Syrian New Scots Steering Group**

members, updated Session on phase 3 of the UK's Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

This concludes my update so until the next installment whatever you may be doing or wherever you may be going over the summer months may all God's blessings be with you and let us all pray for some beautiful sunshine.

God Bless



RAG BAG APPEAL

Bags are still available from the Kirk Centre where they can be deposited when filled.

Why Recycle?

- Around 3% of household waste can be attributed to textiles (by weight).
- Although it is estimated that at least 50% of household textile waste can be recycled, we currently only recycle around 25%.
- It is estimated that households throw away around 1 million tonnes of textiles each year.
- By recycling more textiles, we can reduce the impact that waste has on the environment.
- Reducing the amount of waste that is disposed of in landfills.
- Synthetic textiles will not decompose.
- Some woollen textiles produce methane, a greenhouse gas which causes global warming.
- Reducing the carbon footprint of importing textiles from abroad.
- Saving water: Did you know that if everyone in the UK bought just one reclaimed woollen jumper each year we would save about 370 million gallons of water, more than the average UK reservoir.



SLAINS KIRK BUILDING UPDATE

Rev Alastair Bruce gives an update on the Slains Kirk building decision.

On Sunday 14th May, after three opportunities to vote regarding folks' preferred options for using the Slains Kirk building, the congregation of Ellon Parish Church voted 120 to 63 for Option 1 (which is that we don't retain the building). There were two "spoiled" papers.

It is always sad when a decision is made to close a church building. Nevertheless, as a church our mission to the parish as a whole is undiminished. We will strive to find ways to engage with and reach out to the community of Collieston and Slains that will, by the very nature of

not having a handy church building at our disposal, need to be creative.

We will need to employ new ways of thinking and listening to help bring the love of Jesus to each corner of our parish.

As always the Ministry Team is happy to hear from anyone who wishes to discuss any of this. You'll find the options leaflet which gives some more details regarding option 1, and also a copy of the statement Alastair, the Parish Minister, delivered before the vote result was announced at www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk/news

(NB This article originally appeared on the Ellon Parish Church facebook page)

GIRLS' BRIGADE CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Calaidh Reid, the Captain of 1st Ellon Girls' Brigade reports on the highs and lows of another year of GB

Here we are at the end of another year! The girls have worked really hard throughout the session and have really enjoyed learning new things which has helped them gain their awards tonight.

The Explorers have been following the theme "Around the World" and have had great fun learning about different destinations and fantasising about holidays they would like to go on. They have looked at different cultures, and of course whether or not there are Girls' Brigade companies there. They've also had great fun planning their own around the world trip, visiting different countries and using different modes of transport – however it took a wee minute for the girls to realise that it would take a really long time to get to America on a boat!!

The Juniors have had a great year with a brand new programme book for us to pick their subjects from. For the educational aspect of their badgework they have been exploring

Famous Scottish Women. The girls all had different ideas of 'famous' and it was interesting to see who they aspired to be, from politicians to pop artists. They've also been learning some new dance moves with the help of Louise and Sarah, keeping themselves active with Highland Hustle.

The Brigaders are usually 4 of them and they started the session trying to make pinatas as a craft for the educational part of their badgework – well it was messy – the less said about that the better! For the spiritual aspect of their badgework they've looked at "One Scotland, Many Faiths", exploring different religions, which are prevalent in Scotland and our closer community.

In October we sent the girls home for the holidays with sponsor forms for our Bob-a-Job fundraiser. This raised us £200 which is great for the small number of girls we have! It was really interesting to see all the different



**...our bob-a-
job fundraiser
... raised £200
which is
great...**



tasks the girls had to carry out – some of you were really tough on them! Our other fundraiser this year was selling calendars. We received the calendars on sale or return and were able to make £54 profit from them. Fundraising with such a small group of girls is hard so any ideas for next session are greatly received.

In November Eilidh and Bebhionn travelled to Edinburgh to carry out the next part of their leadership journey. GB Scotland have changed the way that young ladies are trained to be leaders and as such there are no Divisional Training days for the girls any more. Instead there are online modules to undertake and different national training days for the girls to go on. Bebhionn and Eilidh were unfortunate in the fact that they were nearly finished the old system before it was changed and have had to take a wee step

back to get onto the new system, however they did really well in November, passed all their modules and are now getting ready to head to Glasgow next weekend to complete the Gold part of the training which should then allow them to be Commissioned as Officers within the Company next Session.

When we return after the summer break Phoebe, and hopefully Lucy too, will begin their Leadership Journey. It's interesting for me to see the change in how the training is carried out – mainly because so much of it is done by the girls themselves online. There will soon be mandatory retraining coming out for officers who have already been commissioned, which will have to be undertaken every 5 years, so myself, Louise, Sarah, Jenni and Sarah will have that to look forward to!

In December we had our very first company outing to Ellon Parish Church Pantomime!! I honestly don't know why we haven't taken the girls before, it was a hoot and I'm sure the girls all had a great time! The fundraising we did allowed us to take the girls, and hopefully if we can raise more money over the next session we'll be able to take the girls again – Bebhionn tells me it's Jack and the Beanstalk and I'm sure it'll be every bit as good as Cinderella!

In March this year Ellon hosted the Buchan Division Annual Competitions – the Buchan Olympics! Emma, Elena, Isla, Sophie, Amber and Lucy all attended from Ellon and had a really good time. When I came down to investigate they all looked like they'd been working really hard. We were lucky enough to win the Robertson Trophy again this year, which was awarded to the Brigaders

for their awesome hula-hooping efforts!

This year has been great fun but as you can see our numbers are dropping, and this is the same for a number of organisations across the board. There is no doubt that 1st Ellon Girls Brigade will continue, however we need the girls to come along and really enjoy what they are doing! It would be great next year if we could see some new girls returning with our old girls, so please, if any of the girls want to take a friend back with them in August they will all be made most welcome.

Before I finish can I just take a minute to say thank you to you all for making sure the girls are here every week and looking so smart!! 1st Ellon have a great bunch of girls and we should all be proud of them!

1ST ELLON GIRLS' BRIGADE PRIZE WINNERS

The prizes this year were presented by special guests **Ron and Ros Mackie** to join me to present the girls their awards.

This year our two Primary 1 Explorers gain their **Bronze Explorer Star** and 1 year service.

- Erin Stott
- Hope Geddes

The following girls have gained their Gold Explorer Star

- Elena Noble with 2 years Service and
- Emma Kaczmarek with 3 years service.

In the Juniors one girl has gained her first **Junior Circle** with one years service:

- Isla Munro.

The following girls have gained their **second Junior Circle**:

- Rachael Clark with 5 years service
- Freya Collie with 5 years service
- Sophie Kaczmarek with 5 years service
- Leah MacDonald with 2 years service

We have two girls in S1 who have gained their **Red Brigader Triangle**:

- Joy McRae with 2 years service and Keira Findlay with 7 years service.
-

Our 3rd year Brigader gains her **Blue Brigader Triangle** along with

her **10 year service award**.

Well done:

- Amber Young

This is the last year that Lucy Godsman will undertake specific badgework as she gains her Brigader Brooch. After the summer break I hope Lucy will come back and embark on her leadership journey and begin her training as an officer within the company. Over the last 5 years Lucy has undertaken a range of different subjects for her badgework, all of which are worth 2 points each.

Each year the Brigaders carry out a Spiritual, Physical, Educational and Service Topic so over the 5 years Lucy has gained 40 points from badgework alone. This is the requirement for the Brigader Brooch however Lucy has also undertaken some external days such as Brigade



Knowledge and Leadership 1 training, so Lucy finishes her Brigader Brooch with 44 points.

Along with her Brigader Brooch, Lucy is also awarded her 13 year service award. Well done Lucy.

MORAG DOAK

As you all know, sadly we lost our retired Captain and friend Morag [recently]. Some of the younger girls in the company are too young to remember Morag, which makes me feel old, but it's great to see that there are daughters and granddaughters of girls Morag supported through Brigade in the company today.

Morag first started with Girls Brigade in Elgin in 1976, and became Captain of the Elgin company in 1978 once it was affiliated. In September 1980 Morag moved to Ellon with Alan and became part of 1st Ellon Girls Brigade, she then took over as Captain in 1998 when Sheila Robertson retired. Although the majority of us Officers were girls when Sheila ran the company, it was Morag we grew up with and learned from. For Bebhionn, Eilidh and Phoebe, who started as Rosebuds when they went to nursery – Morag was there from the very start.

For me, and my fellow officers Morag was the epitome of what a GB Officer and Captain should be. Kind, caring and encouraging Morag has enabled us to do and achieve so much. Morag saw all of us through our Officer training, encouraged and saw Jenni and Louise achieve their

Girls Brigade Queens Award, ran us back and forward to numerous training days, dropped us off at Duke of Edinburgh training and expeditions, stood in the freezing cold at Remembrance Sunday, and had great fun with us at Divisional Competitions. Nationally Morag was on the Finance Committee for Girls Brigade Scotland and until just last May was an integral part of the Executive team for Buchan Division, holding the post of both Secretary and Treasurer for over 30 years – roles which Louise and I are starting to get our heads around. Morag retired as Captain in May 2011 however in the time that I have been in the role she was always there with a friendly ear and a word of advice when I needed it. She was a great support to us all and hopefully going onwards as a company, 1st Ellon will continue to do her proud.

The collection that was uplifted at our Open Night will be distributed between Girls Brigade and the Downs Syndrome Association, two organisations which were very close to Morag's heart. Thank you for your help in supporting these groups.

Calaidh Reid

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.

.....

“ON THE SQUARE” KIRK CENTRE COFFEE SHOP CLEVER CLOGS

The Coffee Shop Team have been busy studying for their updated **Food Hygiene Certificates**.

Congratulations to Joyce for passing her Certificate and to Iris for achieving the Intermediate Food Hygiene Certificate with Merit.

Good luck to Linda who is sitting hers later in the Summer.

Arts and Crafts:

From 19th Dec 2014 to the present day some £1589 in commission from Art Sales has been handed over to support the Church funds. New exhibitors coming in soon include Ellinor Grieve who is always popular.

The coffee shop team and volunteers look forward to seeing you over the summer.

.....



ELLON PARISH CHURCH IS ON FACEBOOK.

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



AN INTERVIEW WITH IAN ADIE

*Street Pastor, church member and one of the communications core group **Ian Adie** tells why he attends Ellon Parish Church, what a Street Pastor is and more...*

What's your full name? Ian Findlater Adie

When and where were you born? 30th May 1954 in Banff

What family do you have? I have been married to Janet for almost 6 years. I have 3 sons Kevin, Graham and Chris and Janet has a son Paul and a daughter Katie. We have 7

grandchildren so all of that keeps us fairly busy

How long have you lived in Ellon & What brought you to Ellon? I have to say it was Love that brought me to Ellon. Janet and I met on Match.com and started dating in the summer of 2010, and when we got married on 3 July 2011 I moved out to Ellon then. Sometimes you know pretty early in

a relationship that it's the real thing and you have met your soulmate.

How did you get involved in Ellon Parish Church? Contrary to popular belief Janet did not drag me along kicking and screaming one Sunday morning! I hadn't been to church for many years but listening to Janet talking about church stirred something in me and I started going along, not every week to start with. I really liked the modern style of worship led by Steve (previous Ellon Parish Church minister Rev Stephen Emery)

What keeps you coming to church? Short answer is "I've caught the bug". Alastair and his team have continued to develop a more relevant style of worship and I really enjoy being a member of the church family in Ellon. I believe it's a good thing to show your faith through action and enjoy helping out wherever I can - whether it be moving chairs for events, helping set up for the Nearly New, being on the Communication Core Group or helping our Syrian friends to settle in.

How has your faith developed / grown over the last few years? I became a member of EPC last February, something I would not have predicted 6 or 7 years ago. I want to increase my knowledge/understanding of the Bible (still have a lot to learn) and want to be part of what's going on in EPC. Even on the nights when I'm out with Street Pastors in Peterhead and don't get home till after 4 in the morning, I want to get up in time to go to church. I feel refreshed spiritually and it gives me a time of reflection after a busy night.



I want to increase my knowledge / understanding of the Bible and want to be part of what's going on in EPC

How did you get involved with the Street Pastors? I was initially drawn to Street Pastors because I liked the idea of being a practical help on the streets when people who I might not normally meet might need assistance. It was whilst I was attending the new joiner classes for EPC that something kept drawing me to Street Pastors so I decided to apply.

What do Street Pastors do? Street Pastors are a group of volunteers from local churches who go out on

the streets of towns and cities (Peterhead for me) on busy nights to provide a friendly face, a listening ear and care and help to whoever might require it.

What's a typical night for the Street Pastors? The team for the night (we always go out in threes) meet at 9.30pm in the fisherman's mission in Peterhead.

We get the rucksack ready, water, flip flops, first aid kit, wipes, emergency blanket, lollipops, hats & scarves in winter. We have a short prayer and at 10.00pm it's time to hit the streets.

We patrol the town centre touching base with the door staff, police and showing our presence to the folks out enjoying themselves in the pubs and clubs. We have a wander round to the bus station to check there is nobody there on their own. We keep an eye out for glass bottles and pick them up and dispose. We will stop and chat with anybody and sometimes an innocent conversation will lead into someone revealing they need some help with a personal problem. The first half of the night is usually quieter and about midnight we head back to the mission for a cuppa.

We head back out about 12.30am and follow the same routine, the streets are busier now. Some folks have maybe had one too many drinks so we look out for them, offer them water, help them into a taxi, hand out flip flops if the high heels have become painful to walk in (usually just to the girls (ha ha)).

We always have a check down a couple of dark lanes to make sure no one is lying about or sleeping. By now drink has loosened tongues and this is often the time for us to put our listening skills into action as people sometimes want to divulge their innermost secrets.

Our main aim here is to listen and be empathetic, if there is a need we might suggest contact with an organisation such as Samaritans.

The night clubs close at 3.00am and we wait around until most people have gone home.

Then it's back to the mission to write up a short report and statistics from the night, another short prayer then home to bed.

What do you enjoy doing when you're not out with the Street Pastors? I work one day a week as a volunteer gardener at Pitmedden Garden, I love spending time with all

our grandchildren, I love sport (more watching than playing now, still play walking football once a week), the occasional game of golf and I enjoy hillwalking; done a few Munros including *Inn Pinn* and climbed Mount Kilimanjaro for my 60th birthday. I enjoy listening to music and have a wide and varied taste. Favourite bands are Eagles and Queen, seen them both and can't split them.

What's your claim to fame? That would have to be the late 80's when I worked for Britoil and one of my staff tried to defraud the company of £23 million. Anyway to cut a long story short, I played a major part in

preventing the fraudulent transaction going through, the culprit disappeared to the Middle East and then the USA and was finally caught by the FBI. There was a major trial in Aberdeen, national TV and press coverage and then a true crime documentary made for national TV. The actor they got to play my role was an overweight Glaswegian a far cry from Dustin Hoffman who I thought it should be. (LOL!!)

What's the best thing for you about Ellon Parish Church? For me it's interesting, it's relevant, it's friendly and welcoming. It's a church trying to do its best for the whole community.



Ellon Parish Church Autumn Alpha Course

Beginning September 2017

for details:

w. www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk

e. nbruce@churchofscotland.org.uk



“...MEANINGFUL...”

MEANINGFUL FAITH | MEANINGFUL COMMUNITY | MEANINGFUL WITNESS

Rev Alastair Bruce introduces the new vision for Ellon Parish Church and explains the process and thinking behind it.

John F. Kennedy cast an audacious vision on the 25th May 1961 when he declared that he wanted to see someone land on the moon and come back safely within the next decade. In 1969 Neil Armstrong realised that vision. King Solomon reminds us in the book of Proverbs that: “Where there is no vision, the people perish.”² The word translated as “perish” come from the Hebrew word (para’) which actually means ‘go back’. So basically if we don’t have vision then the people we are leading go backwards. Therefore, vision is something that is fundamental to any kind of leadership. That fundamental belief was the catalyst for the recent process the leadership of Ellon Parish Church have gone through to set a vision for the church.

Back in August and September of 2016 the congregation of Ellon Parish Church took part in a process called Future Focus which is essentially a spiritual process that a whole congregation engages with together.

It comprises a set of resources and series of exercises to help congregations to look afresh at their community, to examine their congregational life and to discern what it is that God wants them to be and to do in the next phase of their life and witness.

Over the course of three sessions (two evening and one day session) the congregation explored the community, our shared history and the spiritual health of the church before dreaming some dreams of what we’d like the

² Proverbs 29:18

church to look like in a few years time. This ultimately culminated in four dreams which were:

A place where we are free, able and willing to talk about God (and wrestle, discuss, debate and argue with love and grace)

A real and visible faith in our church

A [busy], welcoming, vibrant, all-age church

A church without walls where all are welcomed and befriended

Following on from this the Kirk Session held a conference in October where essentially we discussed why the church exists and what the future holds. We based much of our discussion on the TED talk by Simon Sinek mentioned in the Minister's Musings this month. All this generated a lot of paperwork, probably enough to carpet the Upper Room!

So, from that the Ministry Team with Sandra Beaton (Session Clerk) had a day together with Rev Heather Mikelson, the Gordon Presbytery Mission and Discipleship Worker, to draw all this together and begin to work out some kind of vision and focus for Ellon Parish Church.

Through a lot of prayer and looking at Biblical passages about relationship and identity and how the early church worked, we were left with a number of words and phrases that might help form this vision.

The Ministry Team then brought these words together into a vision statement, a tag line and some explanations.

This was then presented to the Leadership Team who in their enthusiasm encouraged me to present it to the Kirk Session the

following Tuesday. Happily the Kirk Session enthusiastically agreed the vision. Some emails I received said that it **"...makes perfect sense to me and I felt very emotional seeing it all come together..."** and **"...thank you for all the**

work that you have put into the Vision of Ellon Parish Church along with the Leadership Team." The whole vision statement, explanation and tag line was tidied up and then presented to the congregation on **Sunday 25th June 2017.**

The Ministry Team, Leadership Team and Kirk Session have, through prayer, listened to God's prompting throughout this process and so we believe this is what God is asking us as a congregation to do and to be.



...we believe this is what God is asking us as a congregation to do and to be.

Although this is a person constructed statement we feel that it is the direction God is calling us to move in. Therefore, it'll act as a filter to help us make decisions in the future. It'll help us reorganize our core groups so they work more effectively and it'll focus our work so our structures work more effectively.

Moreover, the Communications Core Group took one visual side effect of this whole vision thing forward. After speaking with Fiona Burnett (who designed the current Ellon Parish Church logo) it was decided that it was time for the logo to be updated and renewed. The Core Group embarked on a process of looking at logos and discussing what could be used for Ellon Parish Church. The group sought out and tasked a local Graphic Design student to come up with a new logo, which she duly did. This was discussed, adapted, tidied up and eventually agreed by the Core Group, the Leadership Team and then the Kirk Session. Again this was unveiled during worship on **25th June 2017**.

Each part of the vision statement is backed up by scripture, one of the four dreams from Future Focus or one of the signs of a Healthy Church as described in the Church Without Walls Report (2001). In the next edition of The Bridge we will look at this in more detail. However, the logo is described in a bit more detail in the article in this edition.

So keep a look out for the vision statement and tag line appearing on things like Facebook, the website, The Bridge and other bits and pieces. I hope and pray this serves as a useful and helpful thing to focus and enliven our church life.

Vision Statement

In response to the love of God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) we seek to be a people of meaningful faith, meaningful community and meaningful witness.

Key Passage:

Matthew 22:34-40

Meaningful Faith:

Recognising our identity as the family of God we worship God with all our heart, all our soul, all our mind and all our strength.

Meaningful Community

Managing our resources, using our gifts in service and nurturing our relationship with God and each other in love and humility.

Meaningful Witness

Teaching what Jesus commanded, going where Jesus tells us to go and loving all our neighbours in our church, parish, country and world.

Tag Line:

Meaningful faith, meaningful community and meaningful witness

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 **8th July**. 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.

ELLON PARISH CHURCH DRAMA GROUP

The EPC Drama Group are beginning to put together the first scenes for this year's Panto. We're all hoping it's going to be an amazing success just like it was last year. Tickets will go on sale in September, but if you want to just get the dates in your diary now so you make sure you're not booked up they are:

Saturday 2nd December 2017

Sunday 3rd December 2017

Monday 4th December 2017

Tuesday 5th December 2017

Show times are still to be finalised.

WALKING GROUP

The walking group meets weekly on a Wednesday at 6:30pm from the Kirk Centre (weather permitting). For more info contact the Kirk Centre Office.

KNITTING UPDATE

Dear Rev. And Mrs. Bruce, warm greetings to you as a family and all our brothers and sisters in Ellon parish. Last week we received a container from strachur and had many boxes for us from Ellon. Thank you very much. We have already began sharing with other needy people.

YOURS, REV. DR. LEVI AND RUTH NYONDO

A 10-Minute Tour Of

Gsunday

In this edition the Ellon Parish Church Youth Group Gsunday give you a tour of who they are and what they do.

Gsunday is the most recent expression of Youth Work in Ellon Parish Church. It follows on from the long history of Chat Room.

We are aimed at S1-S6 and once p7's are 11 we invite them to join on a Transition programme until they reach S1.

This group chose their name and are often asked What does it mean? How do you say it? It's Gee Sunday and it's code for **God's Great Sunday Youth Group: Gsunday**. One of the other suggestions was "there is no off button"

We also made our *Mission Statement* at that time:

Purpose: To be a group which is fun, is friendly and encourages young people in the Christian faith.

Which is about more than church but remembers it is part of the church in Ellon and beyond.



Aims:

- To grow
- To have fun
- To follow Christ
- To be part of the church

Promise to each other: To be kind, helpful and encouraging

We are led by Pam with help from Eddie and Phoebe who has completed training and assessment to be a youth leader in Ellon Parish Church.

There are some Aunties and Uncles who help out when the regular people are unavailable. We need a few more of those as Eddie is reducing his time next session to once a month.



When we are all there which isn't always, there is 13 of us. Most of us are in 6th year and have made the first steps to looking at a 16 - 20 group. We are *Anne, Betty, Caitlin, Jamie, Joy, Julie, Marcel, Mathilda, Milly, Naomi, Steph, Sophie and Toby*

We follow a 3 month programme put together by Pam with input from the group, our input is mainly about food. We pay £1.00 a week to keep us in haribo and to save up to subsidise outings.

Games nights can involve running about playing organised games or

doing board or card games. Uno is very very serious and competitive. Nights involving making pizzas and toasties go down well . Some nights we do big games which are based on situations in the world and the church and there is a lot of discussion when we look at them along with the Bible. People from the Fair trade and Mission groups have joined us for these.

We enjoy getting out of Ellon we have been snowboarding, skating, tubing, swimming, tenpin bowling, Codonas and the cinema as well as youth events. We loved going to

Powerpoint (imagine 500 young people in a church being church our way). We also enjoy joining up with others in the Formartine area at BE:Long. We go away each year for a weekend where we cover the floor of the dorm with our tuck and do art based on a bible text. Some of us went away for a week last year to Soul Survivor and it was great to be with hundreds of other young people from different churches.

Each year we raise money for a charity. We have done SSPCA, Macmillian, Water Aid and the New Arc. We do a quiz each year as well as other events. These raise around £250 over a year. One of the biggest was our 70's night for the manse refurb this took in £500.

Each week we end the evening in our room with business, and a quietish prayer time.

GsundaY feels like family, it's inclusive and welcoming and we like that we are given some independence in decisions, we feel like everyone's opinion is listened to

and we love that we have aunties and uncles who want to spend time with us. Also we are very grateful for our Fairy God Mother who helps us go away for our weekends and we love the food. We learn about God in ways that are different to the usual kind of bible study, sometimes it's

not until the end discussion that we realise all we have learned.

If you know anyone who wants to join us or would like to become an auntie or uncle please speak to Alastair or Pam.



GsundaY =
Gee Sunday

Code for:
**God's Great
Sunday
Youth Group**

GsundaY

S1 – S6 | 7pm | Sunday | Kirk Centre or Ellon Parish
Church | games | chat | friendship | Connect
Evening Service | fun



Holiday Club

Monday - Friday
10am - 12noon
P1 - P7 | Kirk Centre

Afternoon

Beach Fun

Monday & Wednesday
2.30pm - 4pm | Collieson Beach

Cardboard Cafe

Friday | 9.30am - 11.30am
Ellon Parish Church

Summer Evenings

Tuesday: **PJ/Onesie Family Film Fun** | 6pm - 8pm |
Kirk Centre

Thursday: **Quiz & Acoustic Cafe** | 7pm
Kirk Centre Coffee Shop

Coffee & Craft / Chat

Thursday
2pm - 3.30pm

Ellon Parish Church

Kirk Fest BBQ

Saturday
10.30 - 1pm
12 Union Street



Ellon Parish Church is a charity registered in Scotland
No 008819

ELLON PARISH
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness

STAR SQUAD WEDNESDAY EDITION

*Ellon Parish Church's Children and Families Worker **Pam Adam** gives the latest update about Star Squad Wednesday*

In May we began Star Squad Wednesday Edition. This happens every Wednesday from 3.30pm - 4.30pm in the Upper Room and is led by the Ministry Team (Alastair, Pam, Nicola and Alison) with help from Flora, Gavin and Sarah. We have 9 regular young people coming along each week to have fun and learn about God at the same time.

The craft, songs, games and prayer time all focus on the theme of the Bible story that week and in circle time we get to know what they have been up to since we saw them last while enjoying a snack from our team of bakers.



The young people have such a good time one asked for it to last longer. Parents are letting us know how excited their children are about coming on a Wednesday and how the songs we sing with them are being sung at home each day. It's been great to make new relationships with new young people and build on relationships we already had with others.

We have been going for 9 weeks now. Next term we will lose one who has already transitioned into GsundaY and we will have a younger brother of one going to P1 joining us. We will also be inviting 6 from Cardboard Cafe who are going into P1 to join us.

One of the things we decided to do was to have a parents' lounge where parents can have a chat, support each other and get to know the team. Again

it's relationship building, the support and hospitality given is key in creating community.

We also provide a supper table during the anchor boy and junior section BB year.

Parents just need to send their child in with a packed tea and we will deliver them to their BB leader. This has proved popular with parents trying to juggle BB and Brownies. The group is church, church for primary age children where they learn about God and how to apply that to living well in a fun way. It's a safe, fun, happy place for them and their parents.

THE NEW BEGINNING: EASTER SUNDAY 2017

*Ellon Parish Church's Communications Core Group Leader **Lynn Paterson** writes about the ecumenical early morning Easter Day Service*



7am. The Old Brig. Ellon.

A wee nip in the air of a beautiful morning with the sun glinting on the water below. To begin our day of rejoicing a good turnout of folk met to celebrate Christ's Resurrection. We had journeyed together through Holy Week but this was far from the end.....it was just the beginning. The immense sense of what we had experienced as we re-lived that week sat on us all; the heavy weight had been lifted and we all felt that New Beginning. Although early in the morning, there was a small amount of traffic passing by and I hope we conveyed our communal joy to the inquisitive occupants.

With a lightness in our step, we walked down to Ellon Parish Church for breakfast. Nicola had been busy in the manse kitchen providing bacon, sausages and softies. We thoroughly enjoyed recalling the previous week in fellowship with our Ellon Church Family, we thoroughly enjoyed the food and we even had a Black Labrador in church as a breakfast guest!

There are no words to sum up the feelings after such an experience – everyone will have different memories. I certainly felt the excitement of Ellon churches working together.....let New Beginnings be the legacy; let New Beginnings be the start of many more united ventures.

THE NEARLY NEW SALES TEAM

Ann Gammack the leader of Nearly New Sale team updates us about the year so far and some up coming ideas

ELLON PARISH CHURCH

NEARLY NEW SALE

2nd & 4th Sat of the month
10am - 12noon
Kirk Centre (Slains Hall)



I can hardly believe that we are coming up to the end of June 2017 with regard to the Nearly New Sales.

The sales this year have proved just as popular as before with £1901.65 having been raised to date. It is always good to see familiar faces and also new faces on a Saturday morning enjoying browsing and also enjoying the fellowship that the Nearly New brings to a number of people. As usual our upcoming Summer Sales are taking place on the 8th & 22nd July and 12th & 26th August where we hope to have a

good time both with the sales and also the weather.

You might be interested to note that it is our intention to hold an **auction** in November together with our last sale for the year, but this has to be confirmed - so "watch this space".

On behalf of the Nearly New Team we would hope that you have a pleasant summer and continue to see you at the sales.

COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR PETERHEAD STREET PASTORS

Janet Adie, Elder, Choir member and member of the Funeral Team writes about commissioning service for Peterhead Street Pastors where her husband Ian was commissioned as a Street Pastor.



On Saturday 20th May I was delighted to be joined by fellow Ellon Parish Church friends at Peterhead Baptist Church for the Commissioning Service of my husband Ian and his two fellow rookies, Alison and Sandra.

The Service was led by the Pastor David McCaig from the Church with music from the praise band. There was a super buzz about the Church with the Team of Street Pastors supported by friends, family and fellow worshippers from several Churches including the Ellon

contingent as well as local MP Dr Eilidh Whiteford and MSP Stewart Stevenson.

Following a very fitting first hymn – *Be Thou My Vision* – sang with great gusto by all – Frances Scott gave an update on the development of the Street Pastor Scheme

around the country and its development in Peterhead.

Later the Inspector George Cordiner from the Buchan police explained the importance of the scheme to supporting his officers on a Saturday night, and ensuring that the Saturday night revellers are kept physically safe and supported emotionally and spiritually if required. It was very much a team situation he explained with the Pastors being able to offer a listening ear, support and comfort. This had resulted in a safer environment for those out and about and a confidence in the well trained Pastor Group. This was endorsed by Ian Kennedy the representative of Aberdeenshire Council.

Following the singing of our next hymn – *I Have Decided To Follow*

Jesus – Alison, Ian, and Sandra had to deliver short testimonies of their calling to the Street Pastor Scheme. All spoke movingly about their calling; how they had at times denied the calling; how they had life experiences which had shaped their present lives; how they had received unconditional support from others and most importantly how they felt

God's presence carrying them along. Although challenged at times in the role, and apprehensive each time they went out, they knew that their comprehensive training and God's presence would go with them. Certainly, although I'm not involved, I know that God is with them – although I welcome the key in the door after

4am when he returns home, tired but fulfilled.

The new recruits were commissioned by Gerry Bowyer the Area Leader of the Street Pastors based in Aberdeen. Gerry organises all the training of the Aberdeen and Peterhead Team. Following the Commissioning and Blessings and hand of friendship from many present, we sang *Hear the call of the Kingdom*.

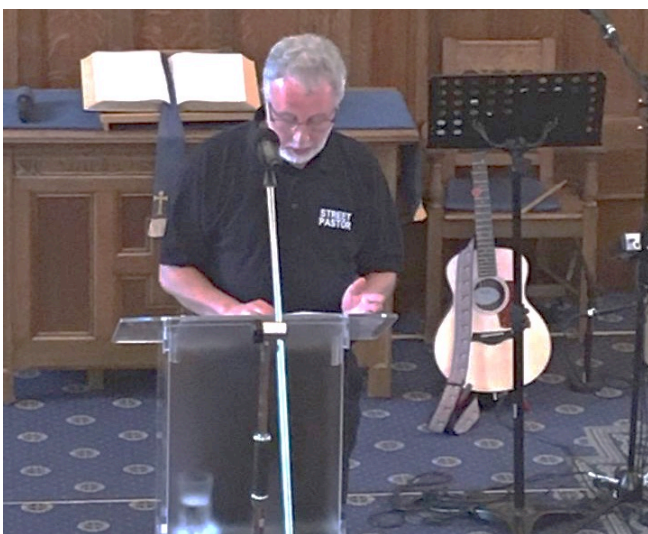


All spoke movingly about their calling ...they felt God's presence carrying them along.

Before the benediction we watched the video of the National Street Pastor's song on You Tube – worth looking up – *Hey How You Doing?*

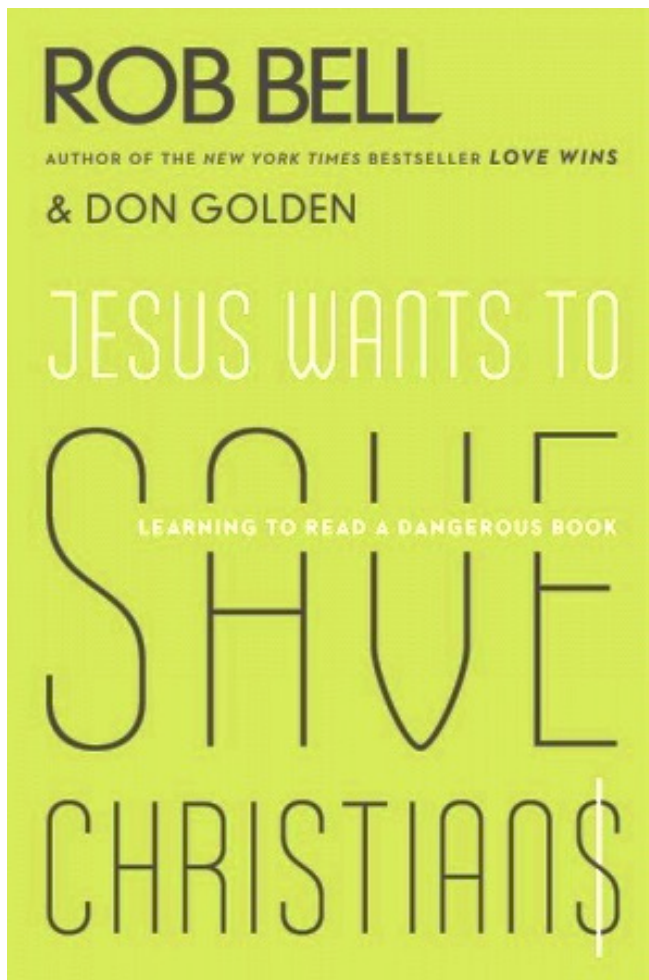
Following the service we had fellowship, tea and fine pieces!

There are many opportunities for us to share our faith in an active way in our community. Ian has chosen this path and I am very proud of him naturally. I know He would welcome others from Ellon to join him.



BOOK REVIEW: JESUS WANTS TO SAVE CHRISTIANS (ROB BELL & DON GOLDEN)

*Reviewed by Ellon Primary School teacher **Charlie Davidson.***



Throughout this narrative they point out time and time again that God always hears the cry of those who are suffering. Although it might seem like God does not hear your cry or that he is frustratingly silent, he always hears you and he always wants to rescue you from your pain and oppression. They make a point of saying that God hears everybody's regardless of their faith because God loves everybody.

Although this book would not be an ideal starting point for someone who has no knowledge of the Old Testament, it would be great for those who have struggled to make their way through it.

Rob Bell and Don Golden share with the reader the journey of the Israelites from their slavery in Egypt, to their encounter with God on Mount Sinai, their time in Jerusalem and finally their exile in Babylon.

Overall I loved this book and would definitely recommend it, it is well laid out and easy to read. The concepts are well explained and easy to understand.

This book constantly reminds us that Jesus paid the ultimate price for us. The authors point out the parallel between the blood of the lambs protection over the Jews during the final plague on Egypt and the blood of Jesus protecting Christians. The term they use is "there is blood on the doorposts of the universe" this really struck a chord with me. It served as a reminder that, no matter what I have done, no matter

what you have done, no matter what anyone else has done the price has already been paid. We are already protected by the blood of Jesus, it is not something we have to earn, and it is something that has already happened.

That is amazing.

You should read the book just for the moment that they drop that line in. Although the theme of being freed from oppression runs throughout,

this book is not only a comfort for people who need to know that God is with them. It is also a challenge. It is a challenge for Christians to care about the hurt and pain in the world. They argue that God has saved us, as Christians, from pain and slavery; therefore it is our duty to help others. This is regardless of whether they are Christian or lead lives that we think of as 'worthy' of being helped. It is regardless of whether they are currently going to church or if they will ever come to church.

.....
Community Cafe run by enterprising teenagers from Collieston and Slains - A wonderful warm welcome awaits you at our scenic seaside community cafe, close to picturesque beach & Forvie National Nature Reserve. We are open on summer weekends in July & August. Collieston Community Centre 12.30 – 2.30pm
If you are down at Slains Kirk Service, why not have lunch at the Coastal Café.



coastal
c★fe

Come and enjoy sandwiches, paninis and sweet treats by the sea...

Collieston Community Centre

Every Sunday from Sunday 2nd July to Sunday 20th August
12.30pm to 2.30pm
Collieston Community Centre: 01358 751204



BLETHERS FROM THE BOARD

*Ellon Parish Church's Clerk to the Congregational Board **Mary Paterson** gives a brief overview of the work of the "temporal" side of the church's work.*

The most recent meeting of the Congregational Board took place on 13th June, in the Upper Room at the Kirk Centre and, as usual, there were many items up for discussion, ranging from the formality of how we proceed following on from the vote which was taken on the church building at Slains to the frequency of nappy-bin emptying in the Kirk Centre! You can't say the work of the Board isn't varied.

As regards the vote on Slains, you will be aware by now that the decision of the congregation was that the building should be closed. The results of the vote have to be taken to Presbytery and from there should

proceed to the General Trustees who will decide how to proceed, although disposal of the building by offering it for sale is the most likely course of events.

The Estates Management team will oversee regular inspections of the building until then and will also be given the opportunity to remove from it any items of value or interest to the parish prior to anything else happening.

If you've been through to the Slains Hall recently you'll have spotted the work that is being done there in the form of the construction of a huge cupboard. The materials for this and the labour involved in the work have been donated by the local Fire Brigade and we are very



grateful to them for this. The cupboard will provide storage for the Cardboard Café equipment and relieve the volunteers of having to make multiple trips to the Girls' Brigade cupboard in the St Ternan's Hall, first of all to get the equipment out and then to store it all away again. I only do occasional days with the Café, but I'm sure that the streamlining of the tidy-up operation will be well welcomed by all who are involved in it.

The outside of the Kirk Centre also provided items for discussion, as the low wall which forms an edge to the access ramp to the Coffee Shop is now deemed to be a trip hazard, although it was the preferred option when the ramp was originally constructed; it appears that opinions change even in the world of 'Health and Safety'. You should soon notice a railing appear, built into the existing wall to bring the ramp into line with current thinking.

Hopefully, over the last few months, you will have noticed the 'Alpha' banner hanging on the west wall of the Kirk Centre which has since been replaced by one advertising 'Kirk Fest'. There was discussion at the meeting as to how events such as the Nearly New sales or one-off events such as the Fair Christmas Fayre could be better advertised and the current thinking is for a really well-weighted blackboard - such as the one that welcomes everyone to the Kirk on a Sunday - to be available to groups using

the halls for such purposes. The Communications Core Group has been charged with coming up with a final solution to this.

Moving over to the Kirk, the Communion table is showing signs of wear and tear – water marks, scratches and the like - so it is in need of a bit of TLC for which it will most probably need to be removed from the Kirk. The Estates Management Team will oversee this but it is possible that all the work can be done within a week and consequently we may not even notice the table coming or going. In the event that the work will take longer, the table from the Wee Chapel will likely be used as a temporary replacement.



The Wee Chapel roof ... is in need of serious work.

The Wee Chapel roof was also an item on the agenda as it is in need of some serious work. At the very least, the roof will likely need to be re-felted and the guttering to be repaired. There is also an option to re-design the guttering so that it works more efficiently. Quotes will need to be sought for the work before a decision can be made on how best to proceed.

Oh, and the nappy bin! It was described as being a wee bit whiffy but it seems that the problem may have arisen because not everyone is using the nappy sacks provided before throwing the used hippets in the bin – which is emptied on a weekly basis, in case you're wondering.

As I said, Board life is never boring.
Best regards,

SUMMER ACTIVITY DAY (JUNE 2017)

*Our Mission Development Worker **Nicola Bruce** writes about the recent activity day held in the church.*



Our summer activities for children kicked off on **Monday 5th June** with our **8th** Activity Day. The Activity Days are a great mix of games, crafts, Bible stories, challenges, songs, snack and great fun!

This time we explored journeys: Jesus healing a blind man on the road, Jesus meeting Zaccheus who was up a tree on the road, and Paul meeting Jesus on the road to Damascus.

Our soundtrack featured two new songs: "We're on this road" by Fischy Music helping us remember we are all on this road of life together and "Man looks on the outside" by Nigel Hemming which helped us explore that people see what's on the outside: how a person looks, what they are good at, or not, but God

looks at our hearts: who we really are and who He has created us with the potential to be. Our stories, helped us know that God loves us, no matter what others say, what we've done or what we think of ourselves.

We were excited to get the sand art out again, the children are becoming glue, glitter and sand pro's! Some of them even helped sweep up after! We made maps of important places in our lives and it was lovely to share ideas of what we all love doing: feeding the ducks at haddo featured highly!

Our summer activities continue with **Kirk Fest, 3-8th July** which includes a Holiday Club in the Kirk Centre. The club is like Activity Days but crammed into a morning! But not just one morning...5 mornings!



Monday – Friday 10am-12 the club is free for p1-p7 (includes incoming p1). We will become the Guardians of Ancora going on daily quests to find the story treasure relics which give light to the city of Ancora. Come and adventure with us!

There are lots of events that week, but a few other Kirk Fest Events of particular note for children and families:

Tuesday we have a **PJ/Onesie family film night** at 6pm in the Kirk Centre. Bring your snacks and jammies and prepare for a great time!

Monday & Wednesday **Beach Fun**

2.30-4pm some of us will be playing games at Collieston beach, come and join us!

Kirk Fest BBQ

We are rounding off the week with a great fun time at the Manse, 12 Union Street. 10.30am-1pm. We'll have plenty space for a cuppa and blether, games and activities for children, fair-trade stall to browse and a BBQ. All welcome!

Other Kirk Fest Activity details on page 36.



THE SYRIAN NEW SCOTS

UPDATE

The Syrian New Scots Steering Group give an update on their work and the arrival of our Syrian New Scots friends.

On the 31st of May, four Syrian families arrived in Ellon. They are all quite young and have young children, ages range from 7 years old to 11 months old.

They seem to have settled in pretty well, considering all they've been through. They arrived in the middle of Ramadan which wasn't ideal. As you no doubt know, Muslims fast between sunrise and sunset during Ramadan. One or two have been ill, probably as a result of fasting and the huge changes in their lives.

Since our Syrian new Scots arrived they've been busy with doctors' appointments, optician and bank appointments and taking the children to be registered at school and nursery, all the children are attending Ellon Primary school. And they have begun having English lessons, 12 hours a week. Our volunteers have been able to help with walking the families round

to the Medical Centre, to the school and introducing to them to the joys of Aldi!!

On a lighter note, all the families came to the Ellon gala Sunday in Gordon Park. They had a wonderful introduction to a Scottish summer, warm sunshine to cold rain! But they all seemed to enjoy the experience.



The community has been very generous with time and ... goods

The community has been very generous with time and material goods. Once Ramadan finishes we will at last be able to offer coffee and cakes... it's been quite frustrating to not be able to give people coffee or tea or cake. However, were hoping soon to have some form of celebration and welcome.

Please, if you see them in the street or shops, smile and say hello. We want them to feel they are part of the community, if nothing else it's one way to counter any Islamophobia, not that I'm aware of any in Ellon!

LOGIE BUCHAN ECUMENICAL SERVICE

6th August 2017 | 3pm | Logie Buchan Kirk



The Annual Ecumenical Service at the tiny 17th Century Logie Buchan Kirk on Auchmacoy estate is on Sunday 6th August at 3pm (I could find no information on this!!) The late Captain David Buchan of Auchmacoy opened the kirk to the public in 1991 it previously having been used only once a year for the service. Now there is the occasional wedding and baptism. If you have not been to this service or visited the church before, it is worth the pleasant drive down to Logie Brig where you'll find the kirk nestled by the banks of the River Ythan as it approaches its estuary.

.....

A CONVERSATION WITH GILLIAN MARTIN MSP

Friday 23rd June 2016 | Ellon Parish Church



The Education Core Group ran their first in a new series called “A Conversation with...” on Friday 23rd June. It was a very special evening where Alastair “interviewed” Gillian about her journey into politics, how she juggles family life and a demanding job, her recent work with Member of the Scottish Youth Parliament Evie Robertson about the dangers and pressures of social media as well as the big issues in the world like global terrorism, the Syrian resettlement programme and the church and community and finally which band is better: The Dawntreaders or the Lorelei. The floor was then open to questions which ranged from LGBT issues to how we discern ultimate morality. It was a fascinating evening and a great honour to welcome our local MSP to the church in this way.

THE NEW ELLON PARISH CHURCH LOGO

The thinking behind the new Ellon Parish Church logo is explained.



ELLON PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness

Publius Ovidius Naso (20 March 43 BCE – CE 17/18), known as Ovid in the English-speaking world, was a Roman poet. In his most famous work called “Metamorphosos” he writes:

*As wave is driven by wave,
And each, pursued, pursues the wave
ahead,
So time flies on and follows, flies, and
follows,
Always, for ever and new. What was
before is left behind; what never was
is now;
And every passing moment is
renewed.*

So, to renew things and adapt things is natural and good practice. That’s

the thinking behind the work of the Communications Core Group over the last few months. This thinking has led to the creation of a new visual identity for Ellon Parish Church, a part of which is a new logo. The Communications Core Group embarked on this journey on the basis that the current logo could do with some updating. Alastair had a conversation with Fiona Burnett, who designed the current logo, to ensure we weren’t stepping on toes or sensibilities. Fiona gave us her blessing to go ahead and look at designing a new logo for the church and also gave us a whole lot of other very useful information and advice.

After discussing what we were looking for in a logo (which included designing something that said more about our ethos and beliefs than our locale) we tasked Laura Hurn, a local Graphic Design student, with coming up with a new design. This went through various incarnations until we decided on the logo and the variations here.

There are various interpretations for the new logo and design. The main one is to do with the cross being central to the life of our church. The circle can represent our journey of

faith, the openness of it can represent the notion of welcome, but can also represent that we are not the finished article, and so has a sense of humility. You might have your own interpretations of what it means.

There are a few different versions of the logo, one with just the circle and cross and another with a darker backing. These are mainly for use in different circumstances. The Communications Core Group will produce a set of guidelines for the use of the logo that all the Core Groups will receive.



ELLON PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness



ELLON PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness

ELLON GALA: THE PARISH IN THE PARK

*Mission Core Group Leader **Mary Paterson** and Mission Development Worker **Nicola Bruce** write about Ellon Parish Church's contribution to the Ellon Gala.*



Last year, the Mission team was involved in a small way at Ellon Gala; we had a cake and candy stall and sold Fairtrade items as well as giving some Girls' Brigade members the chance to practise their face-painting skills on the younger attendees at the Gala. And the weather was glorious and we all had a really good time as well as raising the Kirk's profile a wee bit. So, this year, we went back – with three tents.

The first housed a kids' craft area where the youngsters could take a minute to do something for free that wouldn't wind them too high up or involve them in consuming more sugar than they already had and this was really quite successful. Aside from anything else, it gave the parents a chance to gather their energies for the next round of 'Can I go on the...?/Can I have a...?' etc. And it was a tent, which meant that, when the rain came on, Pam and all her bits and pieces

remained dry and even more welcoming to the bairns and their parents. Also in this tent was a 'Fairtrade' tombola. Honestly, last year's Fairtrade stall wasn't a huge success – it didn't sell the sort of stuff that folk are looking to buy at an event such as the Gala – so we decided to give things a bit of a twist with the tombola in which all of the prizes were Fairtrade items, some of which had kindly been donated by members of the congregation from the Fairtrade stall the week before (and many thanks to those of you who did so). It sold out, which is great, because it means we've managed to get Fairtrade items into many homes that we might not have done by more traditional methods. What's more there was a wee chocolate prize for every ticket so everyone's a winner!

Just outside this tent GB leaders were doing a great job of face-painting which proved popular as ever.

Our more unusual shelter, provided by Vicky (Gordon Presbytery Youthwork Facilitator) which we usually use at activity days, housed a sofa from the manse! This gave a more quirky space to come for a blether, a comfy seat out of the rain and a place to find information about Ellon Parish Church and ways to be involved as well as upcoming events. The spaces were well used and had a great atmosphere and variety of ways to meet other folks in the community.

Finally, because the Friends of Ythanvale weren't able to do the teas this year, we used the Boys' Brigade marquee to deputise for them. There was a lovely atmosphere in there where we could chat with folks when it was quiet or just get our heads down and get on with it when the heavens opened and people were looking for somewhere dry to hang out – and so much the better if it included a cuppa and a fine piece! We were quite happy to do

the teas for free as a blessing to the community but many people wanted to give donations so we'll split what was made with Ythanvale so that they don't lose out on the fundraising. Folks kindly gave donations which totalled around £400.

All in all, this year built on the success we had last year and will encourage us to do more – and maybe even better – next year. And if you think, nearer the time, that you'd like to be part of that team, give me a shout – the more the merrier.

A big thanks goes to the Mission Core Group, GB, all the bakers, Pam, Fairtrade group, Vicky and of course the BB for putting up all the tents and man handling a sofa out of the manse!

Look out for us at the upcoming Collieston Gala on Saturday 29th July.



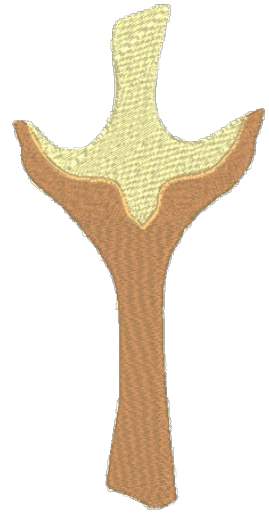
CELEBRATION OF LIFE

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

Funerals

Robert McLeod
Thelma McNally
Alexander McNally
George Duncan
Margaret Simpson
George Ironside
William Lines
Alastair Taylor

Raymond Wright
Peter Gray
Morag Ellen Doak
Mary Batty
William Gordon
Darren Morrice
Adam Cruickshank
Janet Taylor



FLOWER MINISTRY

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

Mrs F Grant, Mrs K Thomson, Mrs P Smith, Mrs L Paterson, Mrs P Morrison, Mrs M Morrison, Mrs Keith, Mrs S Fraser, Mrs E Reid, Mrs J Jones, Mrs P Morrison, Mrs G Gray, Mrs J Adie, Mrs M Burnett & Mrs J Forrest.



SUMMER SERMON SERIES



current sermon series

Parable [par-uh-buh-l]

noun

1. a short allegorical story designed to illustrate or teach some truth, religious principle, or moral lesson

CONTACT DETAILS

MINISTRY TEAM

Rev Alastair JS Bruce | Parish Minister | c/o The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | t. 01358 723787 | e. abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk | Days off: Saturday and Monday

Pam Adam | Parish Worker (Children and Families Development) | The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | e. padam@churchofscotland.org.uk | t. 01358 725690 | Working days for Ellon: Thursday, Friday & Sunday

Nicola Bruce | Parish Worker (Mission Development) | The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | e. nbruce@churchofscotland.org.uk | t. 07513 183074 | working days: Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday

Alison Young | Director of Music | c/o The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | e. assanyoung@hotmail.com | 01358 721196

KIRK CENTRE

Edith Walker | Administrator | The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | info@ellonparishchurch.co.uk | t. 01358 725690 | Working hours: Monday – Friday 9am – 12noon & 12:30pm – 2:30pm



ELLON PARISH
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness

www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk

Ellon Parish Church of Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland NoSC008819
(CCLI No. 243206)

Vector graphics designed by freepix