



THE BRIDGE

Magazine of Ellon Parish Church



SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER
2 0 1 7

Our Vision

Vision

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. *Matthew 22:34-40*

What it means

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.



ELLON PARISH
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness

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 | Kirk Centre

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.

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 the uniqueness of our talents.



I'm currently reading the book "Between Heaven and the Real World" which is the autobiography of Grammy Award winning singer and songwriter Steven Curtis Chapman.

In the early stages of the book it tells of his journey into the music business and his dilemma over whether to pursue a career as a country singer or as a Christian recording artist. Although he had appeared on stage in various tribute acts from a fairly early age with his brother and some friends, he was clear that his older brother was always the better singer. However, Steven Curtis had a talent that his brother lacked, and this was to be the key to his career. He was a very good songwriter and when he sang his songs they seemed to connect

with people. With certain modesty he describes his singing voice as 'a fickle instrument and not as good as others', but the combination of telling his story through his songs seemed to connect with people.

Recently the Hamrahlidarkorinn Choir from Iceland held an inspiring concert in Ellon Parish Church as part of the Aberdeen International Youth Festival (see **Edith Walker's report on p. 38**). The level of talent from the young people was exceptional. It was clear they were using their God gifted talents in the right place and it was a joy to experience that. Movingly the last song really summed up their ability to engage on a rich deep level with their audience. Earlier in the year Bebhionn Paterson and her

Aberdeenshire Saxophone Quartet concert did similar things. Once again the talent was exceptional, but it wasn't just an occasion to put some talent on display. There was a bigger reason behind the talent which **Ron Mackie explains in more detail on page 7 & 8.** Once more the talent was being used as a way to connect with people in a meaningful way.

This seems to be when our talents are at their richest - when they are unique and being used to connect with people in a way that enhances their life. In Matthews's Gospel Jesus says to his followers,

You are the light of the world ... people [don't] light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16)

So, we are to show our light and to show the talents God has gifted us with. Naturally, the talents we have been gifted are much more than musical. For some it's art, for others it's the ability to empathise and listen to other people, for others it organisation and administration, for others being

hospitable and friendly and for others its being good with finance and numbers and others it's practical things like buildings and DIY. As a church family we need to encourage and enable everyone in our family to find and use their gifts for God's service through what we do as a church.

Earlier on in the year we gathered some information about the congregation's talents and we hope to use this information to help people use their talents and gifts in the church. Part of moving to Unitary Constitution (**which I describe on page 24**) is to help create a structure that enables more people to use their talents and gifts for God's glory through the church.

We shouldn't ever think that our talent is not something that God can use, or that it's not as good as another's. We are all unique and we are all created with unique talents.

So, it's not about seeing one person's talent as better than yours, but seeking to find what that unique talent is and then, as Steven Curtis Chapman did, using it to God's glory. So, please take some time to consider what your talents are and how you might use them for God's glory through the work of Ellon Parish Church.



We are all unique and we are all created with unique talents

ABERDEENSHIRE SAXOPHONE QUARTET CONCERT

Ellon Parish Church Elder, Kirk Session member and musician, Ron Mackie enthuses about the Aberdeenshire Saxophone Quartet concert.



I didn't realise how many different saxophones there were. Big ones, small ones, very big ones. Did you know there is a bass one probably bigger than I am? (Almost 6 ft)

If you had been in Church in an evening in May, you would have been treated to a wonderful selection of music, created by a wonderful group of young (and older) people on these versatile instruments.

Bebhionn Paterson, who is a daughter of one of our members, organised the concert in conjunction with "The Youth Music Initiative" in the Church to support her in a journey to a "strange land" to do volunteering work with

"Camps International". She is an accomplished musician, playing a variety of instruments including our piano in Church for services occasionally, which is in my case very welcome. Bebhionn has played in the Church band since she was in Primary seven.

Her journey to Tanzania is a chance to experience living and working in an entirely different culture / environment from our own.

Many young people now get this opportunity to help others in a way that would not have been possible before. She will be doing many unusual

things, perhaps building, painting, cleaning and even maybe teaching! She might even get to make some music!!

Back to the concert; we were entertained by a great variety of music from Classical to Jazz and lots in between. It ranged from Michael Jackson to Titanic. There was something for everyone.

Many of the pieces were arranged by Bebhionn and her colleagues; Maggie Duffus (soprano), Eilidh Fraser (alto), Bebhionn (tenor) and Richard Ingham (baritone). I even recognised Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" which was the first classical music I heard at Secondary school (and it stuck). This piece was unusual in that it was composed before saxophones were invented and so had to be specially arranged for the concert.

We are so lucky to have so many talented youngsters in our midst (and Church), so that given the opportunity to support a concert of this kind we should grasp it with both hands.

We were treated to a feast of drinks and "fine pieces" after the concert

supplied by Caroline Smith, Aileen Scorgie, and Hilary Yule.

Our Church is not just used for worship but to welcome members of our wider community to enjoy music, singing lectures/talks. It is a great chance to show off our wonderful building and to encourage people who perhaps do not normally attend church.



We are so lucky to have so many talented youngsters in our midst.

We like to think ourselves a really hospitable bunch and given the chance to experience something like Bebhionn's music we should take every chance to support them.

The money raised from the concert was shared between Bebhionn's project and also donated to the Church.

There will be many more opportunities to listen to wonderful music and singing and hear interesting talks and discussions in our Church and I just hope that many more people will come along to join in.

Bebhionn has said she will try to organise another concert in the future, and I hope that given that opportunity our congregation will enjoy and support this.



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

Nicola Bruce our Parish Assistant (Mission Development) ponders getting your whole self in!

I was given a notebook when pregnant with James in which I was to write notes about that time in life and then future notes about James. If only I had!

There's so much I have already forgotten which, at the time, I couldn't imagine ever forgetting. I know he ate at 6 months, walked at 9 months and in between learnt to crawl in an attempt to reach for the remote control.

But anyone who knows James will know there is never a moment that some kind of noise is not coming out of our nearly 4 year old child! Those noises have always been hilarious (well, aside from his early endless crying months!). James is well known for his "eh?!" from an early age and his facial expressions that seem to involve his whole body, especially when angry. Surprise, amazement, anger, frustration, delight, wailing...James is a boy of extremes.

His vocabulary is both extensive and hilarious, he certainly makes his

desires known. When playing with James full involvement is required and often full body involvement. Whether in his tent, under a blanket or in a soft play James will inevitably instruct his companion to "get your whole self in!" When we say "I don't think Mummy can fit in there" he exercises his gift of encouragement assuring that of course Mummy can fit through the mangle style play device designed

clearly for toddlers not for mummies and so for James, for want of knowing what fascinating thing he will say or do next and what adventure we are about to embark upon I, and others who love him, do indeed get our whole selves in, through,

between and under.

For the love of James, to know him more, to experience his world, to marvel at the adventure we get our whole selves in.

Recently we have taken to relating this to a life lived with Jesus. Many of us know a lot about Jesus. Many have ideas about Jesus. Many have notions



We can only truly know [Jesus] more ... if we get our whole selves into the relationship...

of what life with Jesus is like. But we can only truly know Him more, experience His world, marvel at the adventure and know who we are alongside if we get our whole selves in to the relationship, for the love of Jesus.

When Jesus walked among us many had heard the stories, the rumours of this man, what he said and did. But those who 'got their whole selves in' found something deeper. They found not only a teacher, a friend, a challenger, hope, God, they found themselves. They found gifts they didn't know they had, courage they

had not known before and not who they thought they were but who God knew them to be.

If you'd like to get your whole self in but aren't sure what that involves why not start with the upcoming Alpha Course. 10 Saturday night delicious dinners, video and chat to explore what the adventure of getting to know God is about. Starts Saturday 16th September 6.30pm at The Manse.

In the words of Jamesy, "of course you can! **Just get your whole self in!**"



Explore

Alpha Course

Begins
16th September
6:30pm

The Manse
12 Union Street



Ellon Parish Church's Nicola Bruce, Eddie Graham, Elaine Henderson, and Alastair Bruce write about the great success that was Kirk Fest 2017



Holiday Club

During Kirk Fest 2017 we at Ellon Parish Church went on an adventure to the land of Ancora as we became *Guardians of Ancora* for 5 mornings.

With an exciting mixture of games, challenges, songs (which are still ringing in our ears!), video, drama, arts, crafts, snacks (oh the baking!)

we discovered 5 artifacts giving us clues to the story of God and the world.

We had a great time with 40 trainee Guardians making friends, discovering truths and trying out new skills.



An incoming team of 5 who came from East Lothian and Annan to spend the week adventuring with us brought a fresh energy and the Kirk Centre was transformed into a land of light for our explorations!

Huge thanks go to all the volunteers, whether with us all week or a day here and there. Everyone helped as much as they could and it was a real testament to team work.

We are excited for our next upcoming adventures as Guardians of Ancora over the In-Service days **13th & 14th November, 10-3pm.**

Registration is open online at ellonparishchurch.co.uk/activity-days or by contacting the Kirk Centre office.

All p1-p7 welcome!





Beach Afternoons

The fun didn't stop at lunchtime during Kirk Fest 17 nor was it all indoors! 30 or so folks joined us at Collieston Beach for 2 afternoons of games, exploring, splashing, snack, friendship and fun!

We put one of our visiting team, Lindsay, on the hotseat and heard how knowing God has helped her and given her some great life opportunities. It was great to get out

in the parish and have fun being church together. Some came as families, some came as individuals, some joined in because they happened to be there and we are irresistibly fun (and had tea with us!).

All had a great time and got to know each other better. We even scored 2 beautiful afternoons of sunshine! The suncream was a plenty!!!
#meaningfulcommunityoutside

Family Film Night

Aiming for 2 events per day during Kirk Fest 17 our Tuesday night event was a PJ/Onesie Crazy Hair Film Night! 40 or so folks entered the

twinkle lit world created in the Slains Hall to stock up on Fairtrade snacks and settle in to watch, sing and



occasionally dance along with “Trolls”.

Some watchers were Trainee Guardians from our morning holiday club, others were siblings, or fun film fans who came along. What a great night with folks of all ages and “I get that feeling...” we’ll be doing another film night!

So watch this space for a Christmas Family Film Night in December!

Do you have a favourite family friendly Christmas film?

If so get your vote in to Nicola to have your say on what to watch!
nbruce@churchofscotland.org.uk

Acoustic Café

Although the first Kirk Fest was packed with family fun and frolics it truly had something for everyone. The Thursday night was a great example filled with simple elements that added up to a wonderful

evening. Take the relaxing surroundings of the Coffee Shop with endless supplies of coffee and cake, add in good company, good music and a quiz and you have the ingredients of acoustic café.



The ensemble of Alastair, Alison and Nicola regaled us with many contemporary and classic pop songs with a twist. The twist being they didn't tell anyone what they were playing. The room sat in teams and had to guess the name of the artist and the song, whilst enjoying the music and conversation.



As good as the conversation was, the music surpassed it. An eclectic mix of songs, some that nearly everyone knew from Bryan Adams and Snow Patrol etc to lesser known but equally well played songs from George Ezra and The Lumineers.



In amongst the music and music quiz were various traditional quiz rounds under the scrutiny of Pamela and to round things off a sheet of visual Dingbats clues, just to make sure every brain cell was exhausted.

A simple mix of elements in a relaxing surrounding with a sprinkle of fun, brains and music and you



have an evening where everyone is in friendship and community with each other.

Kirk Fest was a wonderful week filled with family fun, frolics, community

and friendship that enriched our summer together as a Church. Acoustic Café was a wonderful microcosm of the entire week and hopefully next years will be as entertaining.

Coffee and Craft

Coffee & Craft is a regular event which is held on the first Thursday of the month in Ellon Parish Church. Happily in July, this coincided with Kirk Fest so we were hopeful that some new folk might manage along.

On the day, we were a merry band of 10 “crafters” including some visitors from a church in Aberdeen. We had the usual mix of knitters and sewers and were introduced to Decoupage—a craft which entails pasting small pieces of paper to an object and then

covering them with several coats of glue. Well, you are never too old to learn. Our crafter made it all seem so easy and the finished box (which had started life a plain yellow) was beautiful when it was complete.

All present at Coffee and Craft enjoyed a good blether, lovely tea and cakes – a pleasant way to spend an afternoon. Why not come along and join us at our next crafting session: **Thursday 7th September at 2pm in Ellon Parish Church.**

Kirk Fest 2017 BBQ

Rounding up a fantastic week what could be better than a BBQ! Dennis and Allan lifted a section out of the Manse fence (don't worry, it was designed with just this kind of situation in mind!) and a team of volunteers put up as many gazebos as we had!

Throw in some games, James' sandpit and play slide, a pile of pancakes and baking, tea, crafts, fairtrade stall, a delicious BBQ provided by Aberdeenshire Larder and some sunshine and the 60 or so folks who came would tell you it was a great party!

The highlight had to be the big Guardians of Ancora Holiday Club

Charity SPLAT! All week the children at holiday club had been buying 20p votes to splat the leader. £41.30 was raised for Scripture Union International Project which funds holiday camps for kids in Ukraine including a hot meal.

We had our 3rd place medium splat on Friday at the club where Mary Paterson took great delight in splatting new church member Charlie (who taught across the corridor from Mary in Ellon Primary). At the BBQ visiting team member

Rory and starsquad member Kyle delighted in huge splatting our minister Ali! And GSundaY member Naomi had the honour of splatting Dennis!

We are working on getting the video up on the website and facebook!

With all ages present it really felt like meaningful community celebrating together. What a great way to finish up a fantastic week of meaningful faith, meaningful community and meaningful witness.





STARTING DATES FOR ORGANISATIONS

GIRL'S BRIGADE | FRIDAYS | ALL SECTIONS | 6:30PM – 8PM |
FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2017 | ENROLMENT NIGHT 25TH AUGUST

ANCHOR BOYS | WEDNESDAYS | P2 & P3 | 5PM – 6PM |
ENROLMENT NIGHT 6TH SEPTEMBER @ 6:30PM |

BOYS' BRIGADE JUNIORS | WEDNESDAYS | P4 – P7 |
6:30PM – 8:15PM | ENROLMENT NIGHT 6TH SEPTEMBER

BOY'S BRIGADE COMPANY SECTION | THURSDAYS | S1 – S6 | 7:30PM – 9:30PM |
STARTS 31ST AUGUST

GSUNDAY | SUNDAYS | S1 – S6 | 7PM | STARTS 3RD SEPTEMBER

STAR SQUAD WEDNESDAY EDITION | WEDNESDAYS | P1 – P7 | 3:30PM – 4:30PM |
STARTS 6TH SEPTEMBER

STAR SQUAD SUNDAY EDITION | SUNDAYS | P1 – P7 | 10AM – 11AM |
CONTINUES 27TH AUGUST

TWINKLE STARS | SUNDAYS | PRE-SCHOOL | 10AM – 11AM | CONTINUES 27TH AUGUST

GIRLS' BRIGADE END OF TERM PRIZES

Last month we reported on the successes of the year with the Girl's Brigade. Here is a run down of some more of the prizes the girls received. Girl's Brigade Captain Calaidh Reid explains all at their Open Night.



6 girls attended the Divisional Competitions which were held in Ellon in March this year. The Brigaders won their section and the other girls did really well [Amber, Lucy, Elena, Emma, Isla and Sophie] and did us proud.

The Barclay Trophy is a trophy which is awarded for the Best Explorer within the company. We only have four explorers this year so it's been really hard to choose who to award this to. However two of the girls have excellent attendance and a great attitude to their badgework so a big well done goes to **Elena Noble** and **Emma Kaczmarek**.

The Kirk Session Trophy is a trophy which is awarded for the Best Junior within the company. The Juniors are (usually) a very

well behaved group of girls, although they all like a good yap and a gossip. One young lady has really stood out this year, consistently doing what is asked of her and giving everything 100% so another big well done this time to **Leah MacDonald**.

The Captain's Shield is the Award for Best Brigader. Another hard choice, again as there are only 4 of them and they all work incredibly hard, not only with their badgework but helping the younger girls too. The brigaders all have very similar attendance records too so it's nearly impossible to split the up, however a decision had to be made and **Amber Young** is awarded the Captain's Shield.

The Butler Trophy is awarded to the Best New Girl within the Company. We started

the year with a few new girls, but unfortunately have lost one or two due to other commitments. The young lady that this award is presented to joined us just before Christmas and has settled in amazingly well to the Junior Section of the company. Being the youngest in the section and the only girl in her year group doesn't seem to faze this young lady at all. Well done goes to **Isla Munro** – our Best New Girl.

Our **Jubilee Cup** is a trophy which we have only awarded over the past couple of years and it is to be presented to the Most Promising Explorer. These two young ladies are inseparable, at school and at GB, and I'm surprised at how quietly they're sitting because usually you can't get a word in edgeways. This year, we are presenting this award to two young young ladies, who we are looking forward to welcoming back after the summer to see them progress on their GB journey. This year, our Most Promising Explorers are **Erin Stott** and **Hope Geddes**.

The Kirkup Shield is awarded for endeavour and is awarded to a girl who tries her best throughout the year. This year the award is presented to three girls for all their hard work at Brigade and their ability to undertake new tasks and come up with good ideas, alongside their 100% and 92% attendances on a Friday night, well done to **Sophie Kaczmarek**, **Freya Collie** and **Keira Findlay**.

The Ballycraig Cup is a trophy which was donated and was asked to be presented to a girl who had achieved a lot in the past year. The girl who this is awarded to does her very best, listens well and has really progressed over the last year. This year

the Ballycraig Cup is awarded to **Rachael Clark**.

The 2nd **Kirk Session** trophy is awarded for Christian Education. For this we take into account girls attendance at church, Sunday School or attached Youth Group, and also their input into Spiritual work at Girls Brigade. This year this is awarded to a young lady who has over 80% attendance at GSundaY and has had a great input into the spiritual section – One Scotland Many Faiths. Our Kirk Session Trophy and Bible are awarded to **Joy McRae**. We'll make sure once Joy is home that her prizes are passed on.

The **McKenzie Trophy** is awarded to girls for endurance and this year there is one Brigader who was singled out to receive this award – we actually had a unanimous decision. Sometimes being a Brigader is tough, peer pressure makes you wonder if coming to GB on a Friday night is a 'cool' thing to do, part time jobs are a necessity and studying hard for exams is really important too. I am delighted that this young lady comes along week after week and am really hoping that after the summer she returns again to start her leadership journey with us. Well done **Lucy Godsman**.

The **Martha McRae** trophy is awarded with Captain's Discretion. Over the past couple of years it has been awarded for Friendship and Caring, however following our fundraising efforts this year we decided to award it to the girl or family who had helped us raise the most money. As a charity, fundraising is really important to us, especially if we want to take the girls on trips, and also just for buying craft materials etc. This year the Martha

McRae trophy is awarded to **Elena Noble** and **Rachael Clark** for their fundraising efforts. Well done girls!

Last but not least, the **Boys Brigade** Squad Trophy is awarded to the squad with the best attendance and I'm sure it gets tighter and tighter every year as the girls attendance on a Friday night is superb.

Last year it was very close between

Amber, who was in S2 at the time, and the Primary 2 Explorers. Unfortunately though Amber has to share this year! Attendance for the girls who have won this year was Amber Young 23 nights out of 24, Elena Noble 24 out of 24, and Emma Kaczmarek 22 out of 24. This gives both Amber in S3 and the Primary 3s 96% attendance which is just super! Well done **Amber, Elena and Emma**

THE CHALLENGE

BY

EILEEN DAVIDSON

Can I take up the challenge, Lord?

The pleas, the begging,
The cries, the eyes
Starving, homeless
Displaced families
Lonely, abused,
Battered, bruised
Hurting, lonely,
War-torn, disease borne

Can I take up the challenge, Lord?

Water and food
For the thirsty and hungry
Clothes to wear, time to share
Around a table, scarcely able
To find a space to sit or think
So many needing shelter

Can I take up the challenge, Lord?

Roll up my sleeves, or will I leave?
Not my problem, not my scene
Am I selfish, greedy, mean?
Not my fault their luck's run out
Not my doing, not in doubt

Can I take up the challenge, Lord?

Do your bidding, live Your Word
Not easily done, so easy to say
If only to pass the time of day
Help me Lord, step by step
To walk the walk, action less talk
And be your hands and eyes and ears
To comfort my neighbour, dry the
tears

Can I take up the challenge, Lord?

All are your children, sisters, brothers
Treat with respect one another
In a world divided by have and have-
not
Help us to give, you ask not a lot
To share and to care, stand up for
their rights
To aid and assist those in a plight

Take up the challenge, take up the call
Do my bit for one and all
A thought, a word, a kindly deed
Passed on will surely plant a seed
And a prayer will be answered
I will take up the challenge, Lord

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

Last 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

Elma Douglas, the Convener of the Coffee Shop Management Team writes that the Coffee Shop are looking for more Volunteers to either serve or help with dishwashing. She says that the Coffee Shop has a very good name and reputation and much of this is down to the volunteers.

Did you know? The Coffee Shop was the first place in Ellon to receive an Eat Safe Award.

Also, many thanks to Iris and her staff team, as well as the volunteers.





UNITARY CONSTITUTION

Rev Alastair Bruce gives a brief description of the move to Unitary Constitution.

Earlier in the year the congregation voted to adopt a way of structuring and organising the church called **Unitary Constitution**. This was agreed by Gordon Presbytery and we have now received our new constitution from the Law Department of the Church of Scotland.

Previously we were structured by **Model Deed Constitution** which effectively meant that the spiritual matters were dealt with by the Kirk session and the temporal (or non-spiritual) matters were dealt with by the Congregational Board.

The main change that we'll see with this is that we'll no longer have a Congregational Board so ultimately the Kirk Session will deal with all matters.

Naturally this doesn't mean that we're dispensing with the talent and expertise of those people who are currently serving on the Congregational Board.

With the move to Unitary Constitution the Kirk Session can decide to devolve some of its powers to various committees or teams. So, for example, a team called Estates Management will

deal with the fabric and Kirk Centre things and the finances will be dealt with by the Finance Team.

The change, which has been asked of us by the General Assembly, is an attempt to streamline our practice, to encourage a wider number of people to be involved with the running of Ellon Parish Church and to free up more time for the Kirk Session to discuss matters of faith and other items at a spiritually deeper level.

It's hoped that those who serve on the Congregational Board will move their talents to one of the teams, which are in the process of being developed by the Leadership Team and Ministry Team and will be discussed and decided on by the Kirk Session and the next steps finalised over the next few months. We hope that the transition

from Model Deed to Unitary Constitution will be as smooth as possible. Once the new teams have some elders and previous Congregational Board members on them then we'll open them out to the wider congregation.

You can find out more about Unitary Constitution at:
http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0018/2817/Unitary_Constitution_GUIDELINES2.pdf

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/2816/Unitary_Constitution-Sample.pdf

Additionally if you have any other questions then please speak to me in person or on the phone or by email, all of which you'll find on the back page of the Bridge Magazine.

Looking for ways to explore faith, life and church?

Looking for ways to get to know more people in the community?

Or ways to get to know more people in Ellon Parish Church?

We have 3 different LIFE GROUPS you might like to be a part of

Daytime Group | every second Friday (from 8th Sept) | 1pm – 3pm | Currently looking at the Book of Acts

Evening Video Based Group | 2nd & 4th Wed (from 13th Sept) | 7pm for 7:30pm | “Jesus the Game Changer”

Evening Book Group | 1st & 3rd Wed (from 20th Sept) | 7:30pm | book to be decided

more info from nbruce@churchofscotland.org.uk

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or phone the Kirk Centre Office.



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 **9th Sept.** Donations of **nearly new** goods can be dropped off on preceding 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.

COLLIESTON GALA SERVICE

A number of regulars and families attended the recent Collieston Gala Service in the Glebe in Collieston. It was an ecumenical matter with prayers being led by Rev Carole Fox of St Mary-On-The-Rock, the music led by Ellon Parish Church's Praise band known as "The Triple As" and the service being led by Rev Alastair Bruce. Once again we were blessed with fine weather.

A 10-Minute Tour Of

The Ellon and Slains Stained Glass Windows



In this edition we explore the stained glass windows in both the Slains & Ellon Kirk buildings.

SLAINS CHURCH

East Wall (Fig. 1)

The stained glass window is dedicated to the memory of Major Herbert Evans CBE, JP and his infant son Herbert Alfred Evans.

The inscription is:

I am the living bread and the true vice. To the Glory of God and in loving memory of Major Herbert Evans Died 7th Oct 1931 aged 63yrs. Also of Herbert A Evans an infant son.

Major Evans was a former Member of Parliament for Gateshead. Mrs Evans had a local connection and

lived in Dixie Villa overlooking the harbour in Collieston.

The window, depicting the Ascension of the Saviour, was designed and executed by Mr McLundie of the City Glass Company Glasgow.

South Wall (Fig.2)

On the 27th February 1938 a memorial window, depicting **'Motherhood'** and executed by the Abbey Studio Edinburgh, was unveiled in the kirk in memory of Christina Anderson (nee Duncan), wife of Robert John Anderson. Christina was a regular visitor to Collieston since Childhood and latterly owned a house in the village which she loved.

North And South Windows

The kirk was rebuilt in 1807 with windows on the south (sea-side) wall only. After major reconstruction in 1930 opaque windows were installed in both north and south walls. These windows were then replaced in 2002 in memory of Dr Sinclair and Mrs Mary McIntosh who enjoyed worshipping in Slains Kirk for many years.



Fig 1



Fig 2



ELLON PARISH CHURCH

Apse South East Window (Fig. 3)

Two hands hold aloft a chalice from which streams a vertical shaft of red, representing the blood of Christ. The red shaft culminates in a cross shape, set in a crown of thorns.

Apse South West Window (Fig 4)

Two hands are breaking bread. Below, on a square napkin, are broken pieces of Easter bread with cross symbols on top. Wreath designs in the Upper part represent the agricultural background of Ellon.

The windows were designed by John S Milne DA OBE and executed by Dom Ninian Sloane OSB and the Monks of Pluscarden Priory. An inscription on a small plaque states: "The two windows in this apse are dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Mr and Mrs James Forbes and their daughter Mildred 29 September, 1968"

East Window (Fig 5)

The stained glass window was made possible by a legacy from William Kidd (see plaque on east wall). It was designed by John S Milne DA OBE and executed by Dom Ninian Sloan OSB and Monks of Pluscarden Priory.

The design incorporates several fundamental tenets of the Christian Faith:

Sacrifice – the red/orange cross
Resurrection and Forgiveness – the Risen Christ and the words Father Forgive

Humanity – faces of different races

Baptism – woman (left) holds aloft her child for Baptism

Reverence – woman (right) kneels in worship

The Colour scheme throughout is also symbolic. Deep hues rising to light represent Salvation through Forgiveness, the dominant theme.

North Wall

The Burning Bush (Fig. 6)

This small semi-circular panel consists of a central twisted branch from which spring orange tongues of flame and bears the legend "it was not consumed", emblem of the Church of Scotland.

Designed by John S Milne DA OBE, a small plaque bears the inscription: This window is dedicated to the Glory of God and in memory of Capt Garland C Milne J P and Mrs Milne of Inverebrie Mains Ellon. Capt Garland C Milne served as an Elder in this church from 1926-1964. Gifted by their daughter and son-in-law Mr and Mrs Andrew EC Abercromby of Firth Lodge, Inverebrie, Ellon.

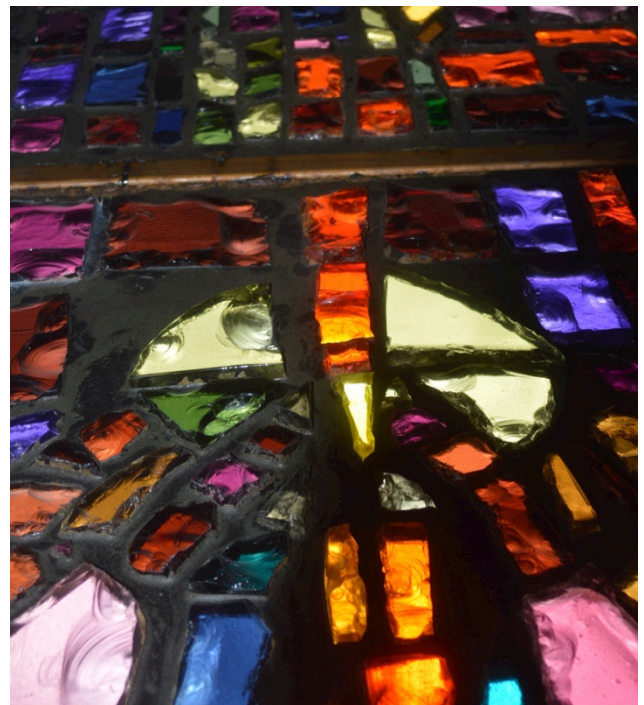
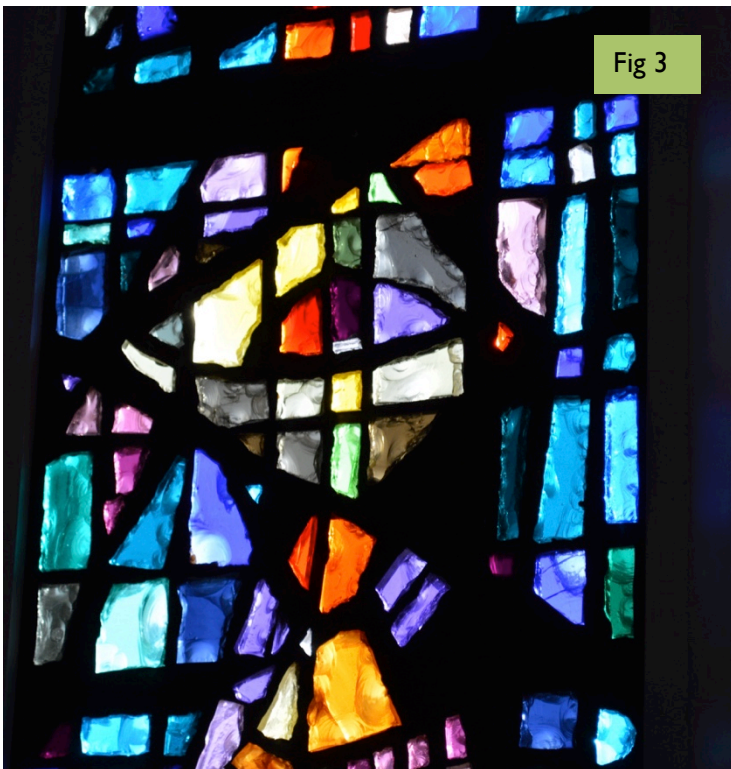
The Window of Peace (Fig. 7)

Dedicated on 29th June 1969, the window was designed by John S Milne DA OBE, whose inspiration for the design came from words spoken by American astronauts as they orbited the moon on Christmas Day, sending back to earth a message of Peace. Symbolising the inner peace of the true Christian life, the Dove of Peace circles the planet earth as it

rotates in Space, bringing a message of hope.

A small plaque bears the inscription:

The North Window is dedicated to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Billy Tawse (1950-1959) and Keith Tawse (1961-1966). "Jesus put his hands round them, laid his hands upon them and blessed them." St Mark 10.16



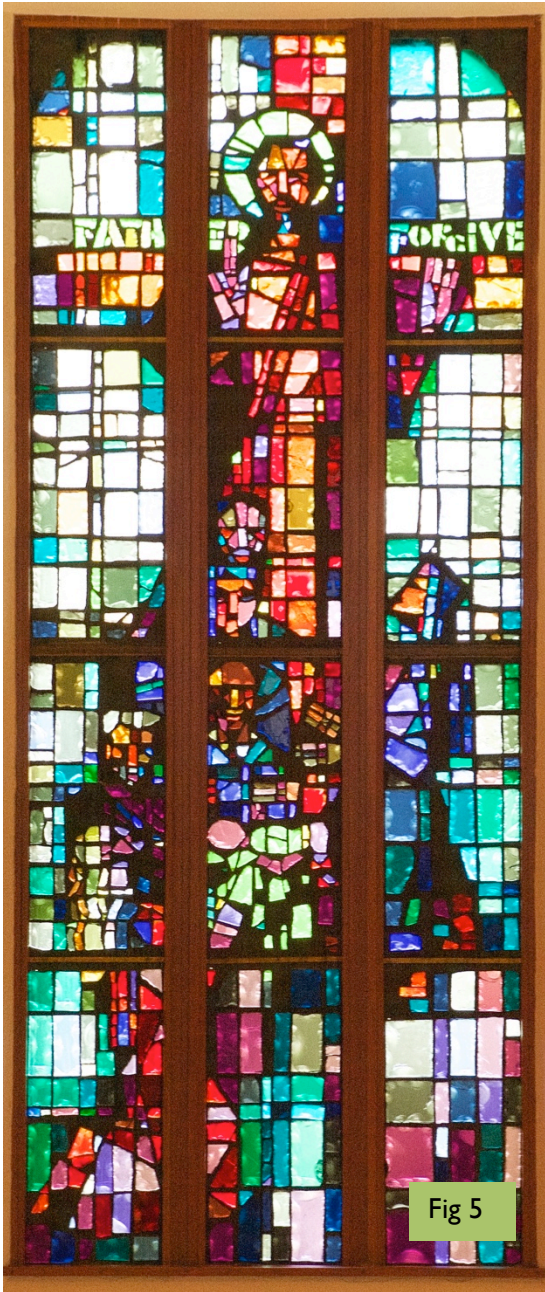


Fig 5



Fig 6

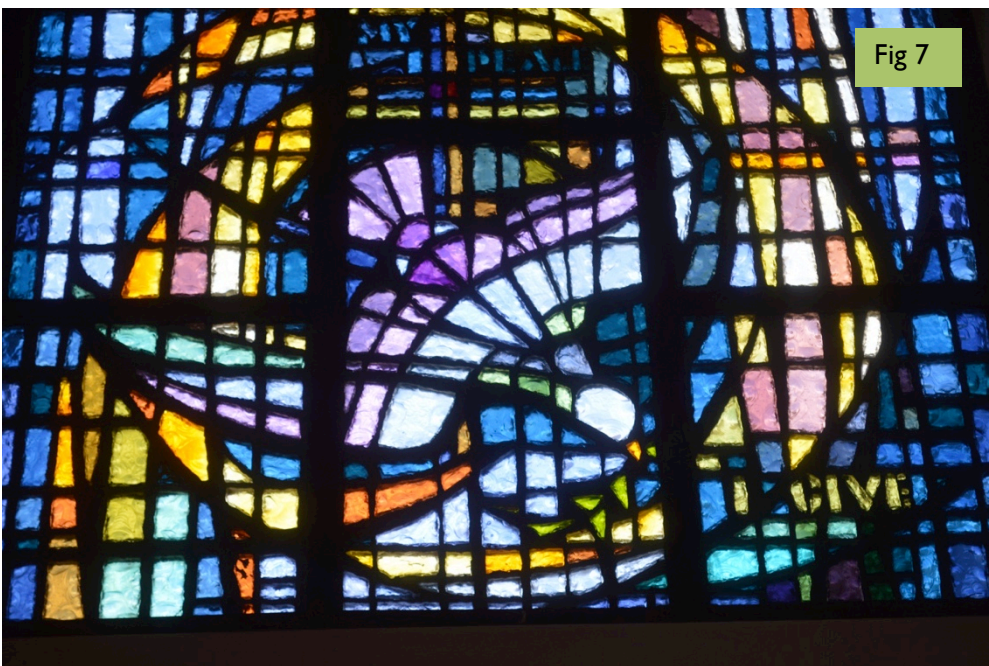


Fig 7



MISSION TEAM CHRISTMAS (AND MAYBE A WEE BIT BEYOND) APPEAL

*Our Mission Team's Convenor **Mary Paterson** tells all about the upcoming Christmas (and beyond) appeal.*



The Mission Team has been fairly busy over the summer months. We were at Ellon Gala as part of the Kirk presence there serving teas, coffees and numerous fine pieces – and weren't we glad we were in a tent when the rain came on a couple of times in great bursts? We were also at Collieston Gala offering face-painting, crafts and a Jenga challenge – and a chat with anyone who fancied one.

Soon, it will be Autumn and we're hoping to hold a Soup and Fine Piece lunch as we've done for the previous few years to raise money for ADESA, our Mission partner organisation. In case any of you don't remember, ADESA is a Dutch-based charity which works to improve the lot of children in rural Peru, especially as regards educational facilities. More information on this will be in the intimations in late

September – I can't tell you more just now because – honestly - we're not totally organised yet. We are, however, organised enough to be able to tell you about our Christmas Appeal 2017...

We're staying close to home again this year and, again, we have children in mind – although those children have yet to make their first appearances in this world of ours.

The names Amin and Hanan Al Mhaimid may not mean very much to you but they are among the Syrian New Scots who have come to live in Ellon and they are expecting a baby – their second child – in the New Year. Unlike many families expecting a second child, they are not, however, in possession of much of the equipment which a new baby needs; in

fact, they are in possession of none of it, having left everything behind them when they were forced to flee Syria. The Inverurie New Scots group also have expectant mums in their midst in much the same situation.

So, it seems to be a fitting thing to do to help out these families. On the first Sunday in September – just to give a bit of advance warning – a wee display will appear in the window next to the servery area which will give you time to peruse it as you wait for your cuppa and buttery. What we are planning is something along the lines of last year – the display will have gift tags on it with items which the babies will need, you take a tag (please), buy the item listed on it and bring it to the Kirk the next time you're there. You don't even need to wrap anything as we're going to put everything for each child that we can help in a baby bath – and yes, a baby bath is among the items we need.

One thing that will be different this time is that there will be a wee piggy bank as part of the display. This is so people can make monetary donations. Moses baskets, cots, prams etc are expensive and we wouldn't even contemplate putting those items on gift tags, but if folk just put in some loose change every week we might get part of the way there with some of those items.

Ann B and Alison Y are currently looking into whether or not used prams , buggies,

cots are acceptable so if you think you can help out in that way, then please ask either of them about it.

Last things; the items which we've put on the tags aren't hugely expensive and many can obviously be bought in supermarkets these days. According to Calaidh – my font of knowledge as regards the needs of the modern baby – Aldi's nappies are as good, if not better, than the dearer brand names and Alexander's bottom has not known even a hint of nappy rash, so it must be true. Morrisons, Asda and Tesco have

lovely baby clothes and for items such as vests and babygrows – which quickly become too small – theirs are as good as any other store.

If anyone wants to knit, we don't know whether girls or boys are expected so please keep the colours neutral; some of the Inverurie babies

are due before Christmas and cosy cardigans would be lovely.

The title says this appeal may go 'a wee bit beyond' Christmas as the babies are all due at different times. Our family's baby is, I think, the last one due out of this particular group so we intend to keep this going until Amin and Hanan's wee one makes his/her appearance.

It will be lovely to help as many of the babies as we possibly can and, knowing how generous you have all been in the past, I'm fairly certain that we'll be able to do something for all of them.

My thanks in anticipation of your help!



...unlike many families expecting a second child they are not in possession of much ... equipment ...

COLLIESTON GALA 2017

Ellon Parish Church Elder **Eileen Davidson** writes about the church's stall at the Collieston Gala



'The Church needs to have an up-to-date image.' These words have stuck in my mind. 'To appeal to today's people befitting 2017.'

At Collieston Gala, with lots of bunting, a blackboard informing people what happens in Ellon Parish Church, tables laden with face paints and crafts, copious bubbles flying everywhere, there was lots of interest about.

Mary's and Nicola's face painting was advertisement in itself as children wandered around. Mary worked non-stop

on the painting while Nicola alternated with the crafts and she and Alastair did sterling work in conversation with all the ages and answering queries about the blackboard info re E.P.C. 'How much does it cost?' was asked frequently? 'It's FREE' to looks of total surprise.

Jenga played its part in amusing the waiting queue and the adults got equally as much out of the game as the children.

This was the first year the Mission Group have been involved at the Gala and it was a big success. Definitely a must for 2018



UPCOMING ANNUAL SERVICES

Harvest Thanksgiving



Come and celebrate *Harvest* with us.
Sunday 8th October 2017

Ellon Parish Church at 10am or 11:15am at
Collieston Community Centre

All Welcome

Remembrance Services

Saturday 11th November - Slains War Memorial 10.50am

Sunday 12th November Ellon Parish Church 9.15am

Sunday 12th November Ellon Parish Church 10.50am

We Will Remember Them

Ellon Parish Church elder and Communications Team Leader Lynn Paterson gives some background and history of the work of the Church of Scotland charity "Crossreach"

Crossreach's Mission Statement

In Christ's name we seek to support people to achieve the highest quality of life which they are capable of achieving at any given time"

Our motivation for serving others is a response to the grace and love of God shown to us by Jesus Christ. This empowers us to love and serve others in his name. Christ's love moves us to reach out to those who are in the greatest need - the marginalised, the poor, the frail, the hurting and the disadvantaged. In this way we understand that all our activities and services are a response to and an outworking of the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ.

What does Crossreach do?

CrossReach was launched in June 2005 and was previously known as the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. Under our new name, CrossReach continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869, so we have a long

history in the field of social care.

We employ more than 2,000 staff and we support some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland.

CrossReach has an annual expenditure of £51 million. Most of our funding comes from local authorities, but we also rely on donations and legacies to help continue our vital work.

CrossReach (the Church of Scotland Social Care Council) reports each year to the General Assembly and has the following remit:

- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of the Council's concern through appropriate channels such as the

CROSS REACH
providing a caring future

Church & Society Council, the Scottish Executive and the like

Some 'good news' stories from Crossreach

Balmedie House near Aberdeen has taken delivery of a new minibus. Service Manager Ann Reid says it will be a huge boost to the home's residents as they will now be able to enjoy day trips.

On 4th March, service users, family and staff enjoyed sensory storytelling in the 'Story Hoosie' yurt in the garden of The Bungalow in Stonehaven to mark its official opening. Stories from Bag Books were read with story specific props. These simple stories are told through voice and emotion rather than words and pictures. Bag Books provide multi-sensory books and storytelling for people with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities. The Story

Hoosie has an area where families of service users can spend quality time together in a private and peaceful area. It's also another sensory environment which enhances the facilities for our service users with PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties). So grab a cushion or a seat in the elegant leaf chair which cradles the body and gently swings for relaxation and make yourself at home!

In future issues of the Bridge we will learn more about the many and varied services provided by CrossReach. And now, a tiny glimpse of history - Here's how it all started.....

1849 The Temperance Committee Findings showed 'A prevalence of drunkenness in many parts of the country' thus the first form of CrossReach was born!

CROSSREACH
providing a caring future



ABERDEEN INTERNATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL

HAMRAHLIDARKORINN CHOIR

*Elder and Ellon Parish Church's administrator **Edith Walker** tells about an inspirational concert held recently in the church*

Following on from the Madison Choir, New York last year we were lucky enough to be hosting another Choir during this year's festival. On Thursday 3rd August we welcomed the Hamrahlidarkorinn Choir from Iceland. The Choir has been the forefront of Icelandic musical life for more than 4 decades. Founded in 1967 by its present conductor, Porgerdur Ingolfssdottir, it was among the first college choirs in Iceland and has maintained its leading position ever since. The choir, made up of approximately 50 students from the Hamrahlid College in Reykjavik, performed to an audience of over 100 in the kirk.

They sang, danced and acted out a few songs. Although I enjoyed them all the one that stuck in my mind was when they started to sing then moved around the church still singing and they all managed to get back in place on the stage at the

front by the end of the song then had to do it all again (and still finished correctly). Porgerdur even invited the audience to take part but we all declined gracefully.

While performing the last song they moved to the outside of the church and stood at both sides of the exit serenading us as we left - WOW is all I could say.

I enjoyed the lovely music and words so much that I purchased tickets for the gala performance at His Majesty's Theatre on the Saturday afternoon and was lucky enough to hear the choir again among many others.

Looking forward to next year, I hope that once again we can host the AIYF in Ellon Parish Church and more people can experience the Youth Festival without having to travel to Aberdeen.

AIYF 2017



CELEBRATION OF LIFE

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

Funerals

Alexander (Sandy) Jackson
James (Jimmy) McDonald
Rev James (Jim) Davies
Frances Mess

Ivan Allan
Alma Wildgoose
Mary Douglas

Blessing

Amelia Mabel Park (daughter of Lynn and Gary Park, and sister of Alivia Park)

Wedding

Scott Leslie & Jenna – Leigh Wyness on 11th August 2017 (at Ardoe House)

Joining the church by profession of faith

Charlie "Rackscha" Davidson on Sunday 16th July 2017

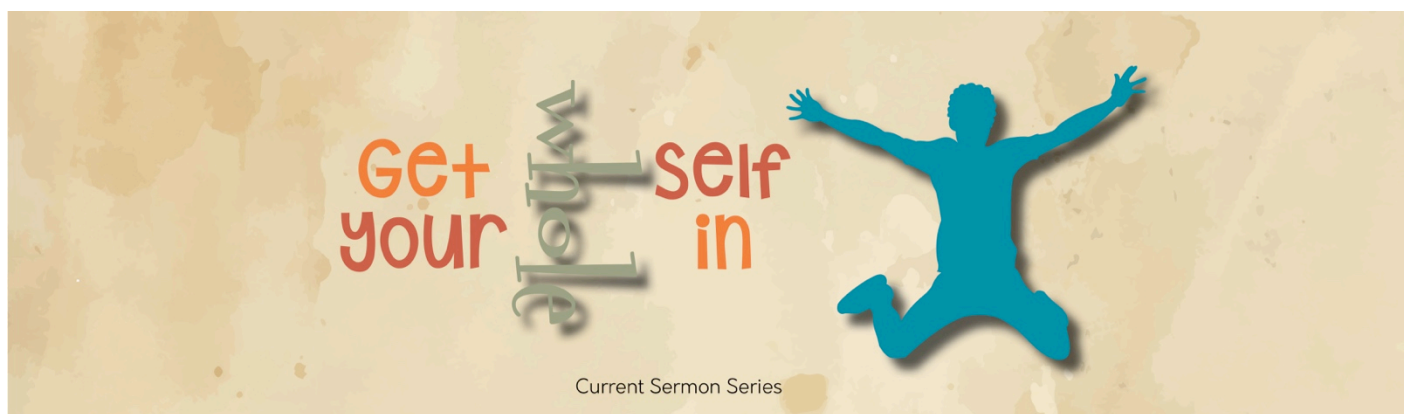
FLOWER MINISTRY

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

Mrs A Anderson, Mrs G Gillan, Mrs M Smith, Mrs D McKinnon, Mrs M Duncan, Mrs M Clark, Mrs M Cantlay, Mrs C Bartlett, Mrs K Riddle, Mrs L Smith, Mrs M Stevenson, Mrs A Forster, G Burgess & Son (Funeral Directors), Mrs I Shearer



CURRENT SERMON SERIES



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 No. SC008819
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