



THE BRIDGE

Magazine of Ellon Parish Church



JUNE | JULY 2018

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 | 10:30am | Sunday | Fellowship afterwards including Fairtrade Tea & Coffee and butteries.

SLAINS KIRK OF ELLON PARISH CHURCH

Family Worship | 9:15am | 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) (TERM TIME)

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 (TERM TIME ONLY)

S1 – 16 | 7pm | Sunday | Kirk Centre | games | chat | friendship | fun

BEYOND

16 - 25 | Sunday | Kirk Centre | chat | exploration | 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 (10:20am from 6th May) | 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 coffee, community and communication.



I have stood in the place where it all began. In that hallowed place. That place of origin. That place to where all roads lead, to where history is traced, to where memory stops. That place where imagination was sparked and fired and became manifest - real. I have stood in the place where it all began.

Pike Place.

Seattle.

The home of coffee.

The home of Starbucks.

Clearly coffee wasn't invented in Pike Place Seattle, but the phenomenon of the big chain coffee shop that has pervaded our culture certainly owes much to that tiny cart and then shop on

the other side of the world. But it's more than just coffee. It's more than just fancy coffee, or coffee you can't pronounce or decode, or coffee in a small mug that looks like the biggest mug in your house, or in my most recent visit, tea. It's about the experience, the atmosphere, the community.

It's about being in a place where humanity exists.

It's about being in a place where communication happens, and communication happens all around.

Communication between friends, business partners, people who've just met for the first time and those whose feet are too tired to take another step.

Communication that shares news, story, joke and witticism, hurt, disquiet, faith and doubt.

It's a place for the enlivened, for the pensive, for the loud and the quiet, for the settled, for the irritated, for the weary and heavy laden.

It's a place for the geek, for the hipster, for the parents and the child, for the suited, for the hooded and for the ladies who lunch.

It's a place where humanity in all its diversity lives in glorious harmony, where a body of diverse people gather because of one thing – coffee, or in my most recent visit, tea.

However, is this humanity's experience when they come to church?

Is it a gloriously diverse group of people communicating as friends and business partners and those who've just met for the first time?

Is the communication deep or shallow?

Do we share our vulnerabilities and do we allow others the dignity to share theirs?

Is church a place of celebrated diversity?



...a place where humanity in all its diversity lives in glorious harmony, where a body of diverse people gather because of one thing...

Do we allow ourselves and our companions to explore the brilliant depths of being?

Does the church reflect to society this notion?

It's one of the reasons why it's so important in our church life and culture to have spaces where we can meet and spend time with each other. It was one of the main frustrations that led me to want to change the times of the

services so that I was able to be at the whole of the Slains worship service, and not have to run out of the Ellon one every other week to get to Slains, inevitably late, or ever so slightly strained.

I am of the firm opinion that much pastoral work can take place during these times, whether it is a

certain issue that someone wishes to discuss with the minister, or just getting to know a new person or family. Conceivably this happens at other times outwith the fellowship times before or after worship, however, this does not stop me missing it.

Nevertheless, just because I miss it does not negate these opportunities from happening with and for others. The wonder of the church is that we are all called to that place, to minister to the hurts and triumphs of individual lives. To bring all we have to offer in

service to God and to comfort, console, weep and rejoice with our companions. And all this can happen when the *professional* minister is not there. So the church can reflect



this glorious community back to society.

But the church reflects much more than this.

The dark side of the *glorious harmony* that's visible in those coffee houses we repeatedly frequent is that although community exists it exists in pockets. Not everyone in that place is called and moved to comfort and console everyone in that place.

There is a *great isolation*.

Diversity in uniformity.

The church is the antithesis of this. The church is called to embrace diversity and bring all into the loving presence of God.

bring all we have to offer in service to God and to comfort, console, weep and rejoice with our companions.

The marvellous pleasure in this is that the minister is able to influence the community towards this level of communication.

And much of this happens in communication over coffee, and maybe in a coffee house drinking a small, huge mug of coffee, or in my most recent visit, tea.



Ellon Parish Church
Alpha Course 2019
Begins January 2019
More details to follow



STUFF FROM THE SESSION

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

The Kirk Session met in May for their usual business and Rev Alastair Bruce welcomed all and worship comprised a reading from Exodus 3:1-6; a meditation from Word of Life entitled Fire and the singing of "A Fire is Meant for Burning" concluded with prayer.

Session then got down to business and there follows a flavour of the topics covered and discussed.

Whitworth Fellowship Programme – Carter Hudson from the University of Washington will join us at Ellon Parish Church on the 2nd June. This is a 10-week work placement which will involve the participation and active support of both Session and the congregation. Ellon Parish Church should be able to give a student a good overview of congregational life as well as being a great opportunity for the Church having a young enthusiastic person bringing refreshing ideas.

Any financial implication for the Church have been covered by Presbytery agreeing to a reduction in our Ministries & Mission fees.

Slains Church - The General Trustees were keen to get the views of Session on the combined valuation of £35,000 which has been put on the Slains Church and the glebe land to the east of the Church. Session were not overjoyed with the figure but nevertheless agreed it was probably the going rate taking into account the condition of the building, the lack of parking and the lack of vehicular access.

They also felt that it would be more beneficial that the building be sold before another winter. It was also clarified that any monies from the sale would go into the consolidated fabric fund held by the General Trustees and would not come to Ellon Parish Church directly.

MDS (Parish Assistant) - 2 candidates had been interviewed on 4th May. The choice was quite difficult as either of them would have been suitable for the post offering different and varying skills. The successful candidate has since accepted the post.

Maternity Cover – This is now a new concept for the Church of Scotland and when Nicola Bruce goes on maternity leave the post will be advertised to find a temporary replacement.

Delegation of Powers - Within the guidelines of unitary constitution, a list of the functions of the Kirk Session is given in the Consolidating Act anent Church Courts (Act III, 2000 section 37). As trustees the Kirk Session still hold the overall power and responsibility but the next steps to bedding in the practice of the new teams was for the Kirk Session to decide how much responsibility to delegate to them in order to prevent delays and slowing up of progress. Session had a short conversation, in small groups, to consider how much to delegate but will revisit this discussion again at a later date.

Presentation of Community Survey - Nicola Bruce, Mission Development Parish

Assistant, presented the findings from the Community Survey which had been carried out. The aim being to help identify areas of need within the parish; to ensure what we are currently doing is helpful and how to develop our witness and service in the parish; to listen to the community.

This took into account the cultures and makeup of the parish; how the Church is seen; how the Church buildings are thought of and how Ellon Parish Church can serve the parish. 145 surveys had been returned, half being from members of the Church and half not, some who come weekly and some not at all which gave a good representation of our parish.

She gave a flavour of the responses received and recommendations and a full copy of this report will be printed and bound with copies available at a later date

This concludes my update of another productive and thought-provoking meeting so until the next installment in October may all Gods blessings be with you in whatever you may be doing or wherever you may be going over the summer months.



ELLON PARISH CHURCH IS ON FACEBOOK.

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



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*



SLAINS WORSHIP SERVICE

*Ellon Parish Church Communications Team leader **Eddie Graham** reports on the first 9:15am Slains Worship service.*



At the heart of all communication are two parties, those who are speaking and those who are listening. One person, face to face with another is the simplest form of this and in that most intimate of communications there is little need for anything other than a good story to communicate and a willing listener. When the communication becomes one person enlightening and informing a group then, although the most compelling part is still that human to human, voice to ear, there are a myriad of ways that the person telling the story, informing their willing listeners, can add to the atmosphere, can make the experience more immersive and, at its simplest, make the story as clear to 100, 200 people as it would one on one.

At Ellon Parish Church we have a sound system that allows everyone to hear the voice conveying the message as if they were right in front of them and we have screens that let us see visuals, videos, messages that draw us further into the story that is the word we all seek to bring light to in our worship.

But at Slains Worship, in the lovely Hall that is the Community Centre we still relied on one voice being heard from the front of the hall to the back, with no means of adding the power or clarity that can come from goods visuals and proper amplification.

We have been talking and praying on how we can provide as similar an experience at Slains worship as we

can at Ellon. Changing the times was one part of that but we needed to do more. With the need to provide sight and sound for Slains, for allowing us the flexibility to worship in the community and for our newer ventures such as activity days and Kirk Fest we needed something more. Something new.

So, on the first Sunday in May at Slains we arrived (at 08:00!) with what we hoped would be

something more. It is something simple. A large mobile screen that expands up to about 6 foot and a couple of speakers, which in them hide the amp and wires to

work. We just point a projector at the screen, plug in the microphones, the keyboard and an iPod and voila, it is done. If anyone who saw the set up that first Sunday doesn't recognise that as an accurate description, then there are several bits missing about where does this go etc etc and "simple" wasn't the word being used but the important thing is it worked. Once set up, we played some worship music in the background just as we do at EPC, Alastair, the reader and the person doing the prayer were nicely



...it brings the basic telling of our story closer into the room and takes away any barriers from anyone in the room not hearing or understanding

amplified and clear, as we have at Ellon, the words for the hymns came up on the screen, as we see at Ellon but the most vivid part was the congregation got to experience the sermon as Alastair intended, in word, in sound, in quotes and visuals that expand on the words and all of this right in front of you as if it was a one to one telling of the story.

It is a simple set up (now), it brings the basic telling of our story closer into the room and takes away any

barriers from anyone in the room not hearing or understanding. It provides moments such as watching our marine life die on video as David Attenborough

explains our part in that death.

This new set up provides more and is new but more importantly it is the same.

It is the same experience of worship we wish to bring in all our worship spaces, one that lets Alastair tell Christ's story in a way that engages everyone in the room and that everyone in the room feels is personal to them and brings them closer to God.

HOW IS ELLON PARISH CHURCH SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY OF ELLON & SURROUNDING AREA?

Befriending and encouraging the Syrian New Scots, presence at Ellon and Collieston Galas, Activity Days on school In-Service Days, 5 holiday club mornings in the summer, Starsquad Wednesday weekly after-school club, running the Kirk Centre Coffee Shop incl. voluntary opportunities & work experience, running the Kirk Centre, Uniformed Organisations BB & GB, weddings, baptisms (christenings), funerals, bereavement support, visiting support, friendship groups to help reduce isolation (Coffee & Craft / Chat / Communi-Teas), school assemblies in all primary schools, chaplaincy support in Ellon Academy (involvement in mock interviews, Enterprise Days, Remembrance, end of term celebrations), free teas / coffees / hot chocolate and a place to gather in warmth at the Ellon Christmas Lights Switch on, Ellon Panto Group, Christmas Lights Service for those who find Christmas hard, worship services, Beer and Carols, Acoustic Cafe & Quiz nights, Community film events, beach fun afternoons in the summer, summer BBQ, Nearly New Sale, EPC Foodbank, Cardboard Cafe toddler group & "Goes Wild" outdoor sessions, prayer support, ad hoc social opportunities and more....!

meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness

POINT TO PONDER

Ellon Parish Church Worship Team member **Eddie Graham** ponders the Ecumenical Services at Easter time.



It seems strange, now that we are past Pentecost to mention Holy Week but in some ways the message of Pentecost, that the word is for all God's people to speak and hear was what we saw during our Easter services.

We like the way we worship.

We understand the way we worship.

It is comfortable.

We aren't saying that it is the only way to worship but it is our way. Easter in Ellon now takes that comfort, unfolds it like a blanket, then sews it on to another blanket and another and another and so on.

It's an old metaphor but the tapestry that is formed when we get together is more beautiful than the sum of its parts. For the many churches to come together for one week and have it feel seamless and comfortable yet vibrant and

colourful is testimony to the people who worked hard to put it together and if that was all it was, seamless, then it would still have been a great and immersive week of worship. The metaphor is old, but it isn't quite right. The message of Easter and the message of Pentecost is not of meeting each other edge to edge it is about meeting each without edges, without boundaries.

Whether it be Episcopalian, Baptist, City, Pentecostal, Catholic or Presbyterian the worship what was apparent during Holy Week was each congregation giving of itself, as all congregations do, but also taking from the whole massed congregation without edges. The styles of worship may have differed, the people involved in the worship may have differed, the musicians and the music may have differed, but every service felt like a part of the same journey with the same companions heading in the same direction. There were no edges just followers giving praise for the Easter gift.



There were moments that shone, like prayers interspersed with classical music, empty buckets of water, 30 loud, demanding pieces of silver hitting a plate and Sunrise on the Ythan but they were the sparkle on a fabric that was nothing to do with who each of was or what church we normally attend.

We like the way we worship.

We understand the way we worship.

It is comfortable.

We aren't saying that it is the only way to worship but it is our way.

If Holy Week shows us one thing it is that there is only one way to worship. That is completely and with only God in mind. How we do that in our own church or

any given day may be comfortable but that misses the point of Easter. The fact the we can come together as a whole town of Churches stepped outside our comfort zone, gave ourselves totally to God in the midst of strangers and yet have worship that is deeper, that is the message of Easter and of Pentecost.

We could have remembered the Crucifixion and the Resurrection on our own, in our own building and shut ourselves out but we would have missed so many other voices, so many other parts of our praise and not have felt that connection of a town of Churches worshipping together as one body of Christ.

Let's look forward to the next time we can come together.



ON THE SQUARE
Ellon Parish Kirk Centre Coffee Shop

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES
Would you like to get back into the workplace but lack confidence?
Have you 2 hours to spare a week?
Perhaps you've recently retired and looking to keep active.

Iris would love to hear from you
01358 723517


ELLON PARISH
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Come and learn new skills | Keep active | Make new friends

THE NEARLY NEW SALE

Eddie Graham tells us about the Nearly New Sale



At Ellon Parish Church we have one of the most successful Nearly New sales in Scotland. It has provided thousands of pounds for the work of the Church, and provided many hundreds of people with clothing, books, jewellery, dishes and a host of other items they could not get anywhere else for price.

There is always a cycle when the inside work that is being done and has always been done in a Church is either seen as new or old, “in the moment” or “of its time” from the outside or often from the rest of the congregation.

Nearly New Sales have been a mainstay of Christian Fundraising since any one of us can remember and it’s easy for us to think of it as old or “of its time” and because of that the work it does, the funds and the service it provides to the community can sometimes be missed. There is however nothing further from the truth.

We have a group of volunteers who, every second week set up the sale on a Friday

and then on the Saturday provide a wonderful customer service and chat but that’s true of all Church groups isn’t it. That isn’t a reason to go buy anything. They are wonderful, but they aren’t the reason that our nearly new sale is very much New and “in the moment”. They are there to provide access to what makes our Nearly New sale somewhere to browse, to chat and to buy.

I’m lucky that I can afford to buy what clothing I need from where I want but I still managed to pick up a shirt at our Nearly New sale that I wouldn’t have necessarily paid the full price for in the shops but at £3 it was a find and then whilst browsing the books I ended buying a handful at less than the price one new one. Once they are read they will probably go back for the next person to read, apart from the classic Asimov Sci Fi novel that I’ve read umpteen times and which I’m going to be selfish and keep.

Mags and Rosie also took away clothing they will use, books they are reading and dishes and ornaments they liked including

yet another snow globe to add to Mags collection, fittingly with a Christmas theme.

We don't need to go looking in a nearly new sale for bargains. It may seem selfish to do so but it's a simple fact that our nearly new sale has a large hall full of items that are there to buy, a selection that will let anyone find something that tickles them and for which the funds go to our work in the community.

It is also an important avenue for those who cannot afford to buy high street branded shirts or beautiful plates or that missing Jackie Collins novel that will add a bit of colour.

Whoever wanders into our Nearly New sale, for whatever reason they are there, once through the door they will find the reason why it has been so successful but will also find why it needs to be seen by more people. It is a microcosm of who we

are. The toughest thing is to get people in the door and even when they are in, the size of the place can be a bit daunting, but once you allow yourself to wander around the nooks and crannies you forget all that and just get on with being a part of things. We have a huge stock of items in our Nearly New cupboard that can provide colour to many more people, now, in this moment, and hopefully for many more future moments.

June 23rd is a special BOGOF sale. Yes, we are asking you to BOGOF on Saturday June 23rd in the Kirk Centre between 10:00 and 12:00.

If the value of the treasures that lie within weren't enough of a reason to go along then surely Buy One, Get One Free must be the day you wander in and get lost in a nook or a cranny.

And as I said, the volunteers are wonderful and will be glad to see you.



Nearly New Sale

23rd June 2018
14th July 2018

Ellon Parish
Kirk Centre
10am - 12 noon



AN INTERVIEW WITH CARTER HUDSON

*Whitworth Fellow **Carter Hudson** tells us about his faith, family and why he's here in Ellon.*

What's your full name?

Carter Steen Hudson

When and where were you born?

I was born on April 24, 1996 in the city of Santa Barbara, California in the United States.

What family do you have?

I have two wonderful parents who live and work in Santa Barbara, and two older brothers with whom I'm very close.

Tell us about your journey of faith. When did you come to faith and

how has your faith developed over the years.

I grew up in a Christian family and have known Jesus since I was quite young.

Since then, I have grown progressively in my faith, in large part because of mentors that I had in my church community growing up.

When I was about 10 years old, I began teaching myself to play the guitar and I would get together once a week at lunch with one of the

teachers in my school who was also a worship leader at our church.

We would play the guitar and pray together once a week. He soon became my mentor and helped me get involved with leading worship at church. Thanks to his influence, I became very involved in my church throughout my teenage years and wanted to continue diving deeper in what it means to follow Jesus.

My desire to grow in my relationship with God and to love God with all of who I am is what led me to study theology at Whitworth. Throughout my studies, my view of the gospel was expanded, challenged, and deepened. A church father famously said that theology is “faith seeking understanding.” That’s where I am now—pursuing the God who relentlessly pursues me.

I am learning more and more of what it means to live in grace, to receive my true identity as a child of God and to let everything I do flow from that fundamental base.

The gospel tells us that Jesus is Lord, and so if that’s the case, that ought

to affect everything. It’s the stuff by which we live and die. But often it can seem out of date or antiquated—disconnected from everyday life.

So I’m currently on a journey of learning what it means for Jesus to be Lord *now*, and to live in light of the resurrection in a world that can be confusing, disillusioning, and downright frightening. I believe that God is real, more real than anything else, and I want to grow in having eyes of faith—to really see the reality that God is light in the midst of the darkness, and to live more in line with the reality of Jesus’ lordship over all of creation.



Throughout my studies, my view of the gospel was expanded, challenged, and deepened.

What brought you to Ellon? How long are you here for?

I’m here as part of a program run through Whitworth University, where I studied, called the Summer Fellowship Program. Every summer, the university sends out students to various ministries around the world and I was selected to be here in Scotland with one other graduate named Kylie. She is serving at the parish in Kemnay. I’ll be here for 10 weeks, until August 12.

What are your first impressions of Ellon / Ellon Parish Church?

I have been amazed by the hospitality and warmth of the people in Ellon Parish Church and in Ellon as a whole. It has been a privilege to enter this community and to be received with such kindness and grace.

What is your church like back in the USA?

It is a non-denominational church, made up mostly of young families and university students. It is right in the heart of downtown Spokane, Washington, (the city where Whitworth University is located), and seeks to embody the gospel in an urban environment.

Why do you go to church?

I go to church to participate in the body of Christ. I go to both give and receive—to give myself and the gifts that God has given me and to receive the gift of the presence of other believers and the gifts the Lord has given to them. I go to encourage and to be encouraged, and to be an active part of what God is doing in the world.



I go to encourage and to be encouraged, and to be an active part of what God is doing in the world.

What are you most excited about in being involved with Ellon Parish Church?

I'm most excited about learning alongside the people here. It's obviously very different than anything I've experienced in the past, and that's why I came. So I'm excited to get a glimpse into what God is doing here in Ellon and to participate in that with the people here in whatever ways I am called.

What has surprised you the most about your time here so far?

One simple one has just been the weather—it's been so nice so far! Granted, I don't expect this to last :) But it's certainly been a welcome surprise.

What hobbies do you have / what do you enjoy doing?

I love playing the guitar and the piano. Music is a huge part of my life and I love all kinds of music. I really like the music of The National, Bon Iver, Arcade Fire, Radiohead, Fleetwood Mac, and many others. I love to surf, which might be a bit harder to come by here! I love to be outdoors hiking, running, biking, or swimming. I also love reading and enjoying a good cup of coffee.

What's your claim to fame?

When I was in sixth grade, I made a CD of me playing my favourite songs on the guitar, some of which I had written. I called it "The Best of Carter Hudson" and gave it to everyone I knew. So I suppose it's all downhill from there!

If you could have dinner with 5 people from history who would they be and why?

Melchizedek – to find out more of who he actually was!

Augustine – I'm fascinated by his writing and his conversion experience. I would just love to get to know him and hear more about his life first-hand.

Bach – I would love to hear more about his life and what the composition process was like for him. Also how his faith influenced his work.

Hildegard of Bingen – This woman did it all. I would love to hear about her experience in the church as a woman back in the 12th century and just to glean whatever wisdom I could from her.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – It would be incredibly inspiring to sit with him and hear about the challenges he faced in his context and the courage he embodied as a follower of Christ in the face of the Nazi Regime.



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.

NEW APPOINTMENT TO THE MINISTRY TEAM

We are delighted to report that Ellon Parish Church has appointed a new full time Parish Worker (centrally funded by the Church of Scotland) to join the Ministry Team. His name is **Peter Cross** and will begin work on **Tuesday 12th June**. We'll tell you more about him and the work he'll be doing in Ellon Parish Church in the next edition of "The Bridge". Meanwhile, please say "Hi" if / when you see him.



Life Group Details

Daytime Bible Study

Leader: Alison / Nicola
When: Friday fortnightly (to coincide with Friday Prayers) 1pm - 3pm
Venue: Eileen Davidson's house,
The Haven, Station Road

Evening Video & Discussion

Leaders: Neil and Elaine Henderson
When: 2nd and 4th Wednesday
7 for 7:30pm
Venue: Henderson's @ 7 Davan Place

Evening Book Group

Leader: Andy Bruce
When: 1st & 3rd Wednesday, 7:30pm
Venue: Andy Bruce's house,
Strathnavar, Station Road



Holiday Club

Monday - Friday (9th - 13th July) | 10am - 12noon | Incoming P1-P7
Guardians of Anchora Holiday Club | Songs, crafts, games, snack.
Register by filling in the form at ellonparishchurch.co.uk/activity-days

Afternoon Beach Fun

Monday (9th July) & Wednesday (11th July) | 2:30pm - 4pm |
Collieston Beach | games, snacks, beach fun for all the family | Everyone
welcome, just meet us there.

Community Film Night

Tuesday (10th July) | 6pm - 8pm (ish) | Kirk Centre | All welcome as
we watch a community - friendly film together. Come dressed in your PJs
or a Onesie, or just your normal clothes. Fair-Trade snacks & drinks
available.

Quiz & Acoustic Cafe

Thursday (12th July) | 7pm | Kirk Centre Coffee Shop | Come to
enjoy some folk / roots / acoustic type music provided by friends and
members of Ellon Parish Church and take part in the quiz hosted by Ellon
Parish Church (there might even be a prize this time!)

Ellon Parish Church

Kirk Fest

9th - 14th
July '18

Cardboard Cafe

Friday (13th July) | 9:30am - 11:30am | 0 - Preschool with their parents / guardians / carers | Ellon Parish Church | free play, crafts, story, snacks, songs, (tea, coffee, refreshments)

Communi-Teas

Friday (13th July) | 2pm - 4pm | Ellon Parish Church | Come along for a cup of tea / coffee and an informal chat | all ages welcome (play area available)

Kirk Fest BBQ

Saturday (14th July) | 10:30am - 1pm | 12 Union Street, Ellon | Come along for a lunchtime BBQ.

All Activities Free

For more info go to www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk/kirk-fest

ELLON GALA & ACTIVITY DAYS

*Ellon Parish Church Mission Development Worker **Nicola Bruce** (before she goes off on maternity leave) gives us a run down of the events of the first weekend in June*



Ellon Parish Church had a busy weekend at the start of June getting out into our community to serve folks at Ellon Gala on Sunday 3rd and then supporting children and their families on Monday 4th school holiday by running an Activity Day for primary aged children.

Our Boys Brigade were down at Gordon Park early morning to put up all 3 of our tents (2 of which they provided, thanks to Vicki Stigant for her big shelter also!) and were back to dismantle and

disperse tents, tables and chairs at the end. Our Fairtrade team ran a stall and tombola in one tent, Mission & Discipleship team organised free teas and home bakes in the larger tent (thanks also for help from Welcome & Hospitality) as well as folks to talk to passers by. They also chatted with folks in the third shelter while Pam ran free arts & crafts for kids and members of our Girls Brigade and volunteers relentlessly painted excited faces for hours! Many smiles and appreciative faces all round.





Guardians of Ancora Activity Day.

One man said “for free?” and the response came “aye we’re the Kirk so we’re fiel like that! There’s a donation basket if ye must.”

All in all a wonderful event and from our corner it was great to see so many of our church meaningful community volunteer to serve and be a meaningful witness to our wider community be that setting up, clearing tables, serving stalls, chatting, giving information, heating water, painting, carrying water flasks, baking...the list goes on.

Activity Day

With the Gala finished it was time for last minute preparations for the

Monday saw a great fun mix of games, art, songs, snacks, friends, laughs, fun, discovery and wondering with our Bible stories of Pentecost and Shadrach, Meshach & A Bendy Goat...wait...ah yes Abednego & the fiery furnace. Gladys, Fronk (no, Fronk... no, Fronk... no.. it’s Fronk...) & the Guild Master were back in another exciting drama episode...lots of “he’s behind you!!!”

The Welcome & Hospitality Team kept us fed and watered and a great team of volunteers came alongside the children to guide them through the day and be examples of meaningful faith.



Our summer Fellow, Carter, was introduced in the band and bravely on the hot seat where the kids asked lots of questions. We discovered a lot about him like his brother has a pet snake and one of his favourite

things about God is His compassion. Another great day with lots of children looking forward to 5 Ancora mornings in Kirk Fest (9-13th July, register at ellonparishchurch.co.uk/activity-days)



ECO-CONGREGATION SCOTLAND

Recently Rev Alastair has been leading us through a series on a Sunday morning entitled “Borrowed” which has been all about encouraging us to look after our planet and “partner with creation instead of acting upon it.” Here we look at what it means to be an “Eco-Congregation”



Scottish Christians take action on the Environment

Does the environment matter?

What can we do about climate change?

These vexed questions are hard to answer, but here in Scotland there is a movement whose aim is to help churches address them.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical environmental movement made up of over 300 local Christian congregations whose vision is “a Scotland that cares for God’s creation, now and forever”.

Registered congregations are encouraged to link environmental issues to their Christian faith and take practical action in their church and local community. There are 18 local networks from Orkney to Dumfries providing support at a local level for congregations to live more sustainably.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is open to congregations from any Christian tradition and is supported by many different denominations.

To find out more or to register please visit

www.ecocongregationscotland.org.



eco congregation Scotland

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical movement helping local groups of Christians link environmental issues to their faith, reduce their environmental impact, and engage with the community.

Our vision

A Scotland that cares for God's creation, now and forever.

We provide

Eighteen local networks across Scotland where congregations can meet each other and share ideas.

Written materials for study, worship and practical action.

Regular newsletters to keep you informed on environmental issues.

An annual meeting of eco-congregations from across Scotland.

An environmental audit for your church.

A web site at www.ecocongregationscotland.org.

An environmental chaplain who supports people to explore the theological and spiritual basis of care for creation.

Links with other organisations.

An awards scheme recognising achievement by local congregations.

CARDBOARD CAFÉ GOES “WILD”

Ellon Parish Church member and mum of 2, Nataleigh McGonlagle, writes about the first “Cardboard Café Goes Wild”



‘Cardboard Café Goes Wild’ launched last month (First Fridays 1.30pm) and we explored the Caroline’s wells woods - Pam created a Star Wars themed experience.

The search for characters led us to a quiet area where the children let their creativity flow - making a temporary art

piece where we shared Storytime. It was inclusive, educational and interactive but above all the children appeared to really enjoy themselves.

Orla certainly did and now when we go for a walk she asks to go to the woods and find the Ewoks!



ELLON

Advertiser

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COUNCIL TO CONSIDER FREE PARKING RULES

Star stories: The Cardboard Café hosted a Green Wild event on Friday, May 4 with a picnic and an 11 year Star Wars Day (May the Fourth be with you), parents and their little ones travelled to Caroline's Wells during their story circle and found 10 Ewoks, want to thank the staff's care and hard work and safety, thank Caroline's Wells for the wonderful day, when the sun and...
 Photograph by Phil Warren

Following a review of parking charges across Ellon, which was completed at the previous week's meeting of the Parish Council, the Council will be asked to consider a set of changes including price rises and the potential for a 'free parking' area in the town.

The review was conducted by the Ellon Town Council's Parking Review Committee, which was set up last year to look at the current situation and to recommend changes to the council.

The committee has now completed its review and has produced a report for the council to consider. The report includes recommendations on parking charges, parking spaces, and parking enforcement.

The committee has recommended that parking charges be increased across the town, with the exception of a 'free parking' area in the town centre. The committee has also recommended that parking spaces be increased in the town centre and that parking enforcement be increased.

The council will be asked to consider these recommendations at its next meeting on Friday, 11th May.

Spring clean time for Pimodden and Udry Green

The town council has organised a spring clean for Pimodden and Udry Green, which will take place on Friday, 11th May. The clean-up will involve collecting litter and recycling from the streets and public spaces in both areas.

The council is asking for volunteers to help with the clean-up. For more information, contact the town clerk on 01452 632496.

NERVOUS ABOUT GOING TO THE DENTIST?

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CARDBOARD CAFÉ TEAMS

We are delighted that there are now 4 teams to help with Cardboard Café.

Each team has a Team Leader who is responsible for making sure things run smoothly on the day and for arranging to have enough helpers for the sessions they are on. The Team Leaders are **Pam Adam, Nicola Bruce, Ros Mackie and Sandra Beaton.**

The teams are on once every four weeks and if you'd like to help out on one of the new teams the Team Leaders would be delighted to chat with you about it. This can be everything from helping set up and clear up, to welcoming on the door, getting down to play with the kids or just chatting with the parents.

If you think you could give a bit of time on a Friday morning then either ring Edith in the office or email info@ellonparishchurch.co.uk

COFFEE SHOP VOLUNTEERS

If you have a spare couple of hours in the week Iris in the coffee shop would love to hear from you. There are various jobs that you could do from serving to washing dishes, depending on your skills! If you think you could help then phone **Iris on 01358 723517**

NEARLY NEW SALE

The Nearly New Sale takes place on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month from 10am – 12noon. The next is **23rd June.** Donations of **nearly new** goods can be dropped off anytime before.

WALKING GROUP

The Walking group meets at 6.30pm at the Kirk Centre (weather permitting) **For more information please telephone Catherine Burnett on 01358 720524.**

RAG BAGS

Please continue to bag up any old clothing, shoes and handbags for recycling. The church receives 40p per kilo for these

We will no longer collect household linens but if you have good quality linens, please offer them to the Nearly New Sales Team.

There are also outlets for linens at the Red Cross and the Fire Station.

Eileen Davidson

THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

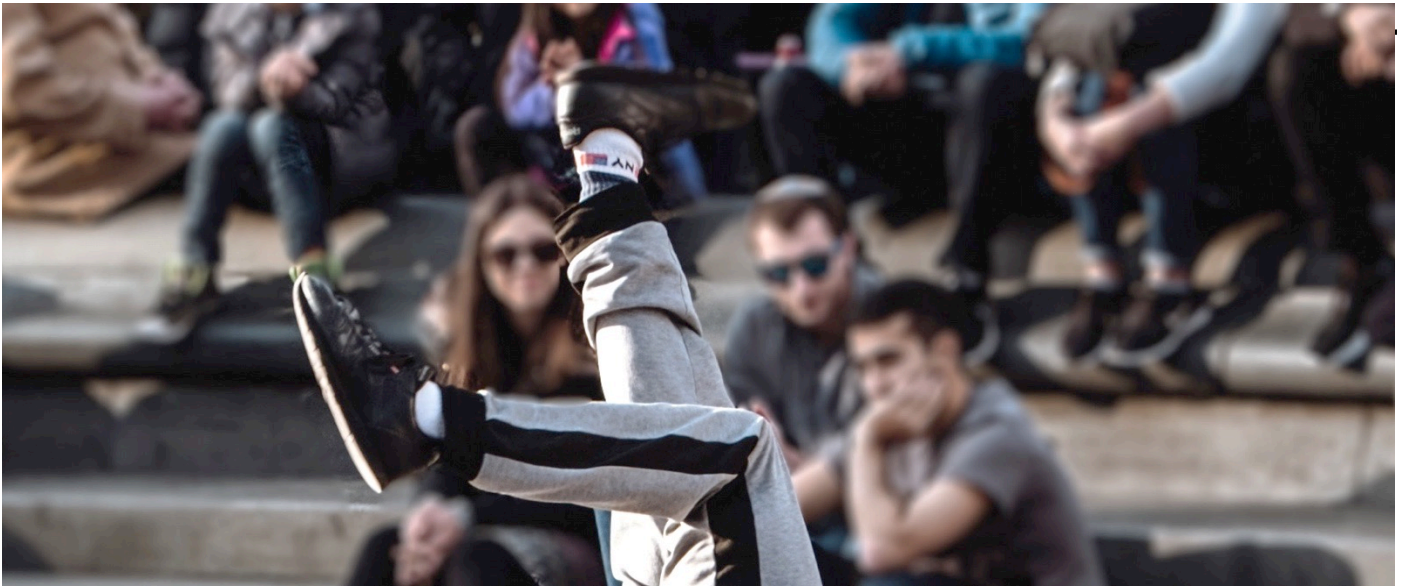
If you'd like to contribute to the Bridge Magazine we'd love to hear from you. We're looking for people to write articles about faith and books and what's going on in the church community as well as in Ellon Parish. Contact Edith in the Kirk Centre Office, the Bridge Magazine Editor on epc.thebridge@gmail.com or Rev Alastair.

We are always looking for articles of interest to include in The Bridge Magazine. If you have anything you'd like to contribute to The Bridge that is loosely church or community related then please let us know.

The closing date for submissions for the August/September edition will be Friday 27th July 2018.

OUT OF STEP?

Ellon Parish Church member Mags Lucas wonders if she's out of step



I was delighted last Sunday morning when I sat down in church, looked around and realised that it was almost full. It felt like the Sundays from my childhood when I went to St Columba Church in Foxbar, (Paisley) which was always full. Sadly, in more recent times, some churches are just not that busy despite the incredible amount of time and effort put in by people to make it so.

The difference was underlined for me when we sang one of the hymns accompanied by the organ, the combination of voices and music was quite moving and very comforting.

Then it dawned on me, the reason there were so many people here was because today it was Holy Communion. So, it wasn't just because the Fairtrade team had chocolate in the House! Now here is my confession. I am more likely to NOT come to Church BECAUSE it is Holy Communion than to come. A phrase was used during the service "...out

of step..." and I thought that's how I feel in Church sometimes.

The fact is I don't really know what I am supposed to think about the consumption of bread and wine and what it means in our Church. I stopped going to Church when I was 16 therefore never took Communion, as children didn't in those days. I later joined the Church when I was 37 and that was one of the very few times that I took Communion, only because I had to. This meant there was a huge gap in my religious education and for a long time all I could think about the act of Communion was what I was told as a teenager.

I went to a "non-denominational" school and the Roman Catholic school was up the road, so I had no friends who were Roman Catholic until I went to college. This was not considered strange and I later had friends who were Jehovah's Witness, Jewish, Roman Catholic and Mormon (reader I married one).

I was told by Roman Catholic friends that they believed the wine and wafers they consumed were the actual blood and body of Christ because it had been turned into such by their Priest when he blessed it, so not just a symbol but the actual person. This may just have been their interpretation, but I have never been able to get this image out of my head and so I don't do Communion. It feels too "Roman Catholic" to me and that's fine for some but not for me. I told my kids from an early age, take it if you want, Dad does, I don't, it's up to you.

I am sure there are other people who don't take Communion, for whatever reason, but I suspect some of them would rather just not come to Church that day. I learned to just pass the plate along without taking anything and I don't think I get as many strange looks as I used to.

I suspect there are people who would rather avoid a situation where they feel uncomfortable and they are completely correct in doing so. Life's too short to do things that make you feel uncomfortable.

A friend said to me recently "are you not a bit too old to be wearing that?" I was wearing a t-shirt with the name of my favourite band on it. I think I said something like "no, but I **AM** too old to have people tell me what to wear," which

was considerably better than what I was thinking. I often feel "out of step" but have learned to embrace it. I make sure I wear this t-shirt every time I see that friend and she's still my friend.

Today we are all about "inclusion" and embracing our differences in every area of society including the Church. It's very easy to say we are inclusive. It's not so easy for some people to feel included but I know there are people here in Ellon working very hard to change that.

The problem may be the common misconception that everyone who goes to Church is 100% certain of their belief and

that is why they go to Church.

Well I must be out of step there too because I am not 100% certain of anything, especially my belief in God.

I come to Church to learn and to explore my belief. I get knowledge and comfort from

listening to the sermon. I love singing and am frequently brought to tears when the words of a Hymn touch something in me. I conclude that there must be some faith in me somewhere, I'm not sure where it is or what it looks like, but I will keep looking. Apparently, "God loves a trier!"

I hope I am never 100% sure. I hope I will always have something to learn. I hope I will always be moved by music. Most importantly, I hope I am always "out of step" because I am not, "out of step", I'm Mags.



...but I have never been able to get this image out of my head...

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

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

Funerals

Wilson Gray

Ronald Alexander Drummond Geddes

Ian Elrick

Mary Wallace

Alison Fyvie

Ian Watson

Madeleine Somerville

Margaret Middler

Margaret Mackie

Rhoda Duncan

Baptisms

Ella Mae Willox, son of Scott Willox and Kayleigh Cormack (and wee sister of Ciaran)

FLOWER MINISTRY

Many thanks to the following for providing flowers in April & May 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 Milne, G Burgess & Son, Mrs P Morrison, Mrs D Reid, Mrs A Wyness, Mrs M MacDonald, Rev M Rodger, Mrs E Douglas, Mrs S Beaton, Mrs P Argo, Mrs N Fraser, Mrs E Middleton-Booth, Mrs M Gibson, Mrs M Ironside, Mrs M Colvin and Mrs N Bruce.



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

Peter Cross | Parish Worker (Ministries) | The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | e. pcross@churchofscotland.org.uk | t. 01358 725690 | Days Off: TBC

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 (Currently on Maternity Leave) | Parish Worker (Mission Development) | The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | e. nbruce@churchofscotland.org.uk | t. 07711 223100 | working days: Wednesday, Thursday & Sunday

Alison Young | Director of Music | c/o The Kirk Centre, 4 Station Rd, Ellon | e. assanyoung@hotmail.co.uk | 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
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meaningful faith | meaningful community | meaningful witness

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