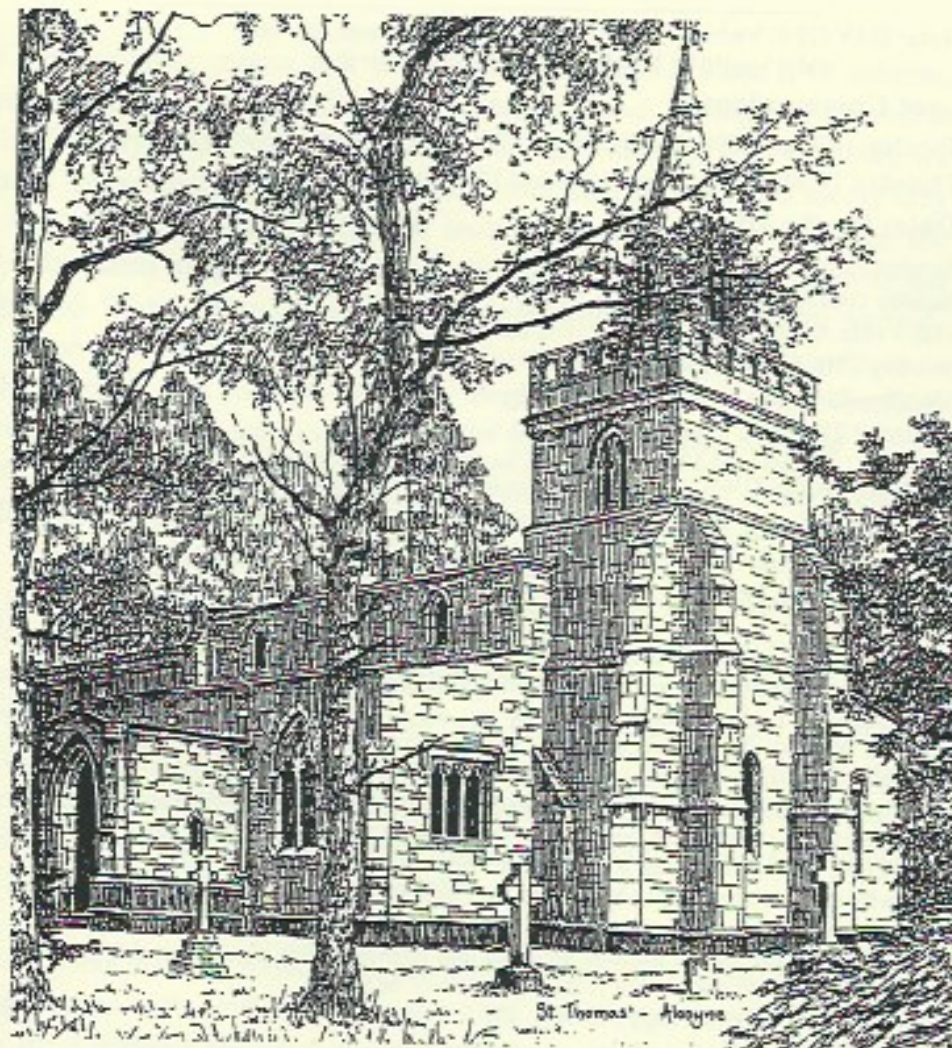


The Deeside Tattler

April and May 2022



St. Kentigern's, Ballater, St. Thomas's, Aboyne
with St. Ninian's, Braemar



Rector: Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock
The Rectory, 7 Invercauld Road, Ballater, AB35 5RP
Tel. No. 013397 55919 email: vittoriahancock@gmail.com

Deacon: Rev Jean Souter

Lay Readers: Stuart Yarnell, Tel. No 013397 54018

Hugh Dawson, Tel. No 013398 87054

Note: DAY OFF. Vittoria is taking Friday as her normal day off,
and it would be helpful if we would respect that.

Lent Communion

Tuesday, 10.30am, 29th March, 5th and 13th April, St Thomas'

Thursday, 10.30am, 31st March, 7th and 15th April, St Kentigern's

Dates for the Diary

Sunday 27th March, Mothering Sunday

Sunday 10th April, Palm Sunday

11th - 16th April, Holy Week - details inside

Sunday 17th April, Easter Sunday

Monday, 18th April, Wedding, St Kentigern's

Thursday 21st April, 7.30pm, St Thomas' Vestry meeting

Monday 25th April, 10.30-12, Climate Change Coffee Morning at 55 Charlton Park

Thursday 12th May, 7.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry meeting at Maggie Jaffray's

Thursday, 26th May, Ascension Day

10.30am, Holy Communion, St Kentigern's 6pm, Holy Communion, St Thomas'

Sunday 5th June, Pentecost Sunday

From the Editor: We are coming up to the season of Easter as we write, a season of deep thought and preparation, the following of the Holy Week events, and finally the joy of Easter. And we do so need this joy, when the world seems to be in such turmoil. We have the quite devastating news from the war in Ukraine - just when we were thinking the Pandemic was the worst thing that could happen to us all, but were beginning to see things perhaps getting more normal again. We need to see all these things in perspective, and Easter helps us to do this - there is still a God, a risen Lord, in whom we can trust. And we have some articles that will help us to do this, while others are there to help us to see 'life in its fullness' - the topic of our Lent Study this year. Our thanks again to all who have contributed.

We include a note of the various services and events taking place over this period, and everyone is invited to take part in some or all of these.

We wish you a holy and happy Easter. **Ed**

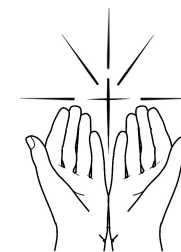
Sheila Maxwell Tel 013398 86740 EDITOR and Aboyne contact

Email: sheilamaxwell@btinternet.com

Anne Richardson, Tel 013397 56088 Contact St Kentigern's

Email: richardson716@btinternet.com

From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

I wonder what season you like best? Sometimes I think it is autumn, sometimes summer. But it varies with my mood. Spring has arrived at the Rectory, and Easter is fast approaching. Although with the wind we have had recently, it feels more like winter than spring. A decidedly lazy wind – it goes straight through instead of around. The crocii in the garden seem to spend most of their time laying bowed over, faces to the ground. Which means, when the sun does shine, beaming down warmth, I value it more than ever. The crocii stand erect and turn their faces to the warmth, the snowdrops seem to glow from within, and the little yellow flowers (I can never remember their name) open up wide. Like a cat, I follow the sun around my house, basking in the warmth streaming through the windows. It's interesting what difference the weather makes.

I delight in bright spring mornings, with blue skies and sunshine. What I don't like about spring is those days when it is damp and cold, and the weather seems to hang around rather like a wet tea-towel, limply draped over the landscape. When I came here 8 years ago, I began two things. The first was an Easter Vigil and bonfire at St Thomas', and the second was a Sunrise Service by the river in Ballater. I think over the years, we have experienced all the weather spring can bring – often experiencing all seasons over the Easter weekend.

It is good that we sometimes celebrate Easter with snow and ice, and sometimes with glorious warm sunshine. Easter is a time of celebration in the Christian church – a time when we remember that Christ rose from the dead. A time which helped to further the kingdom of God here on earth. A time of peace, of hope, of love.

Yet living as we do in this world, we are aware that although God's kingdom is here, it is not yet here. While we have the model of peace, hope and love, people still suffer under the burden of oppression, injustice, violence, and war. While there is plenty to go around, for others there is little. We do not live in a just, equal world. The work that Jesus died for is still ongoing – the battle is won, but the war continues.

What we know is this – God will triumph. There is hope. We are called to be Easter people. To live in the faith of Christ. To live in the love of Christ. To live with hope for the future. To bring about peace on earth. To work with God to bring about his kingdom. We do this by our words, our actions, to demonstrate love, not hate, peace, not war. To welcome the stranger. To soothe the broken-hearted. To proclaim justice and mercy.

This means that we are called to speak out when we see injustice or inequality. We are called to reach out when we see people in need. We are called to think about how we vote, how we shop, how we live the nitty gritty of every day life. Called to look at what we read, what we listen to. How we spend our leisure time and our time at work. We are the hands and feet of God in this world.

The climate in the world at present is stormy. Turbulent and full of unrest. So we look towards the spring, the light, the Son. We have the joy of the resurrection with us. We have the courage of the risen Christ with us. We proclaim peace, joy, love, hope for the future. Let us, in word and deed, help to bring forth the kingdom of God.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

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Lent Group – the Lent group will be meeting on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm from the 8th March. As usual, any materials will also be sent out to interested parties. The theme of the group will be 'Living life in all its fullness'. This will be held on Zoom.

Easter and Holy Week

Sunday 10th April, Palm Sunday

9.30am, Holy Communion, St Kentigern's

11.15am, Holy Communion, St Thomas'

Monday 11th April, 12pm, Stations of the Cross, St Kentigern's

Tuesday, 12th April, Lent Communion, St Thomas'

Wednesday, 13th April, 9pm, Compline, St Thomas'

Maundy Thursday, 14th April, Holy Communion and Stripping
of the Altar, 10.30am, St Kentigern's, 6pm, St Thomas'

Good Friday, 15th April

12pm, Service for Good Friday, Glenmuick Church

2pm, Prayers and Readings for Good Friday, St Thomas'

Holy Saturday, 16th April, 7pm, Easter Vigil and Bonfire, St Thomas'

Easter Sunday, 17th April,

7am, Sunrise Service at Sluievannachie,

followed by breakfast at St Kentigern's

9.30am, Easter Communion, St Kentigern's

11.15am, Easter Communion, St Thomas'

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A Candle for Ukraine

If you go into St Thomas' at present, you will see on display a candle, with yellow and blue material draped around it. This is lit during our services, as visual reminder of our prayers for the people of Ukraine and the ongoing war there. The yellow and blue represents the colours of the Ukrainian flag. The plan is to light the candle at each service until the war is over.



Holy Week events

Holy Week is a week in which we metaphorically travel from the high of Palm Sunday to the low of Good Friday. Some of the events will be familiar to you – others perhaps not so familiar.

The Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross are pictures which are put up around our church which symbolise the journey of Jesus from his arrest and condemnation to his death on the cross and burial in the tomb. It's important to note that they are not meant to be factually accurate. Some of the events pictured are taken from the story of Jesus' crucifixion in the Bible – others are drawn from folk tradition concerning the acts of Good Friday. The stations of the cross are designed to help us travel with Jesus during his final hours on earth as a human being. They are there to help us reflect on the familiar story, sensing what it would have been like, remembering the ultimate sacrifice Jesus made for humanity. As we journey through the Stations of the Cross, we pause, we reflect, we pray, and we commit ourselves to compassion-led action.

Compline

The service of Compline is over a thousand years old. The early Christian Church established a daily cycle of prayer called the Hours. The eight Hours marked the day from dawn to fading light, Compline being the last 'hour' of the day, before the night silence. The earliest formal description of Compline is found in St. Benedict's Rule in the 6th century. St. Benedict called the final hour of the day Compline, from the Latin *complere* : to complete. He described in fewer than thirty words the form Compline would take for the next thousand years. He wanted the prayer kept simple: Psalm, hymn, reading, blessing, and dismissal.

Compline tends to be a contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace. It is a reflective and beautiful way to commend each day to God and to move into rest.

Easter Vigil and Bonfire

The Easter Vigil is yet another centuries old tradition. We do a very simplified version of the Vigil and Bonfire, tailored to suit our own traditions and needs. We start off outside the building, by an unlit bonfire. We light the bonfire at dusk on Easter Eve, as a symbol of the light of the risen Christ. We then take the light from the bonfire into the church to light the Easter candle. We have a few prayers and reading, remembering the story of Jesus' death and resurrection. And we share the peace of Christ with those around us, proclaiming Christ risen. We usually finish this first celebration of Easter with refreshments.

Sunrise Service

Yet another old tradition, which we have revived in our group of churches. We meet down by the river in Ballater at dawn (well, a little after dawn for us!) on Easter day, to greet the rising sun. We take the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows. Then we finish by having breakfast together in one of the local churches.

Singing the Faith in Lent

Hymns play a vital part in worship and we all have our favourites. Among my own is the wonderful hymn for the season of Lent.

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways.**

This is probably the greatest Passion Hymn and it comes from the heart and faith and pen of John Henry Newman and his meditative poem *-The Dream of Gerontius*, which was set to music by Sir Edward Elgar. Newman's hymn, **Praise to the Holiest**, actually only takes 6 verses from a 35 verse song in that poem and repeats the opening one to make a seven verse long hymn of praise. The original version of the hymn first appeared in *Hymns Ancient and Modern* in 1868.

John Henry Newman (1801 – 1890) was a priest and a Cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church a renowned Victorian religious poet and writer on Christian Doctrine. His early life, however, was spent in the Church of England where he was a major figure in the Oxford Movement that sought in worship, writing and church architecture to bring the Church of England back to its 'High' liturgical' Catholic roots. The Oxford Movement had an important influence on church worship and architecture and the Gothic style was seen as the form that most effectively lifted the soul to God. Cardinal Newman has a place of honour in the history of the Church, to the extent that a decree of Pope Benedict XVI made him a saint.

Newman's *The Dream of Gerontius* traces the journey of an aged monk through the gate of death into purgatory and finally into the presence of Christ. It was first written in 1865 and appeared in the Roman Catholic publication entitled *The Month*. There is a story that John Newman thought so little of the poem that he threw it into a waste-paper basket from which it was retrieved by a friend. That was most fortunate, because without that retrieval we would never have his, the finest of Newman's hymns. His second most famous hymn was *Lead kindly light*.

Praise to the Holiest the hymn, is the final section of Newman's Dream of Gerontius, in which the Christian soul after death is accompanied by a choir of angels as he enters the presence of God. In their song, the angels celebrate the saving work of Christ, by which the believer is enabled to face death without fear and come with joy into paradise.

The hymn begins with ecstatic praise

**Praise to the Holiest in the height,
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways**

This is the refrain that runs through the entire poem, the *Dream of Gerontius*, and each of the five sections begins with it. And this confidence in paradise and celebration, heaven's hope, is not surprising, for the Christian looks at death in a very different way from the person of no faith. The Christian is able to view death calmly and confidently in the light of Jesus death and Easter victory. So in the height of heaven as in the depth of the earth, Christ is praised. This is the privilege of the church, to declare in worship

and the testimony of all who share in it. For God's words are wonderful – and his ways are most sure.

And the next verse tells us what they are

**O loving wisdom of our God,
When all was sin and shame,
He, the last Adam, to the fight
And to the rescue came.**

What God has done in Jesus is to rescue humanity from our sin and our shame, and the rescue springs from the loving wisdom of God. Newman's words here can only be understood in the light of what the Bible says.

(1 Corinthians 1 Ch. 18 – 25; Romans Ch. 5 vs. 18, 19 and 1 Corinthians 15 Ch. vs. 22,47,48). What Paul is saying here is that there are two representative human beings in the Bible, two Adams with whom the destiny of all humanity is bound up. The first Adam is the Adam of Genesis who was disobedient, sinned and therefore displeased God his maker. The second Adam is Jesus, the Son of God, who came to deal with the consequences of sin and disobedience, and to free humanity from the burden of its condemnation and power. By the grace of God we are put right with him and given eternal life. The great declaration of the Passion Story is that Christ came into the world to save sinners. But how did he come?

Verse three of this hymn tells us:

**O wisest love! that flesh and blood
Which did in Adam fail,
Should strive afresh against the foe,
Should strive and should prevail.**

Jesus came in flesh and blood, with the same human nature as the first human being. He was tested and tempted like any human being but did not fail. In his life and death he showed that we are called to say 'yes' to God and 'no' to self. That is the way to life. But we can only have that life with Christ, with his life and death and resurrection. And so Newman wrote:

**And that a higher gift than grace
Should flesh and blood refine?
God's presence and his very Self
And essence all divine.**

Though latterly a Roman Catholic by belief and worship, Newman was not in these words seeking to teach Roman Catholic doctrines about Holy Communion. Instead he was saying that the man Jesus Christ who took our flesh and blood and shared our human life was not simply a man in whom the grace of God dwelt in a higher degree than any other. In the coming of Jesus to share and live our humanity, God gave a 'higher gift than grace' - He gave himself. In the person of Jesus, God gives himself. God's own love were embodied, in essence, in nature, in Jesus. We read of this also in the Bible. (Colossians 2 v 9 and John 1 v s 1, 14). The birth and death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are truly amazing grace and what Jesus achieved for us is wonderful. The next verse takes up that wonder.

**O generous love! that He, who smote
In Man for man the foe,
The double agony in Man
For man should undergo.**

God's love is wise but it is also generous, because in Jesus, it has done something at infinite cost. (John 3 vs 16). This is what is called the Atonement, and at this point John Newman brings us face to face with the cross and who is was who hung and died on it. Four times in this verse we see the word man, twice it appears with an upper case 'M', twice with a lower case 'm'. Man with the upper case letter refers to Jesus Christ, the second Adam, the man from heaven, who comes to us for our salvation.

The word man with the small case 'm' denotes mankind, the human race, ourselves included. The 'double agony' referred to means the physical and the spiritual sufferings of Jesus. In thinking of the cross we tend to concentrate on the physical pain of it all, which Jesus endured, since that is what we can most readily understand. We must not forget, however, that the deepest agony Jesus suffered was within his own soul, when he entered into the darkness of spiritual desolation and knew what it was to be forsaken or abandoned by God. He had to do that to share completely our nature at its darkest and most bleak. All of this was the gift of God in his extravagant generosity and love for us. That is ultimately the meaning of the death of Christ, but it has another meaning as well, and the final verse of thy hymn points us to that meaning.

**And in the garden secretly,
And on the cross on high,
Should teach His brethren, and inspire
To suffer and to die.**

Some feel this is a disappointing and unsatisfactory ending to a great hymn, the great anti-climax after all that had gone before. Is the sacrifice of God himself on the cross merely to teach us to how to bear suffering and to face death? The answer lies in the way the original words were written by Newman in his poem. For in *The Dream of Gerontius* this verse was in fact joined to the previous one without a break, just as the third and fourth verse first appear as one. So we see that this verse about Christian living in fact emerges from the same subject; the generous love of God revealed in the suffering and death of Christ. The verses link together what the cross has done for us in securing our salvation, and what the cross teaches us, in showing us how to live and die. In the secrecy of the garden and open to the public on the cross Jesus provides not only the assurance of our salvation but also the way for us to live it out.

The value of this last verse of this great hymn is that it relates the theology of the cross to the realities of life with its tests and trials, its suffering and its death. Jesus has experienced all of this and is more than any able to inspire us and help us to live life without fear and to face death and not be afraid. Looking at this last verse this way the hymn does not end with an anti-climax in any way, but awakens a fanfare of praise, hence the repeating of the opening words as the 'Amen', the 'it is so', to all that has been sung and said in response to God's loving wisdom and generous love.

**Praise to the Holiest in the height.
And in the depth be praise:
In all His words most wonderful;
Most sure in all His ways.**

Andrew Wilson

Lent Appeal - Mary's Meals

Our Lent Appeal this year is for the Scottish based charity Mary's Meals. Mary's Meals works internationally on the principle that by providing one good meal in a place of learning, children are drawn into the classroom where they can receive an education that could one day free them from poverty.

Mary's Meals is named after Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty. We consist of, respect and reach out to people of all faiths and of none. Their vision is that every child receives one daily meal in their place of education. Working together, they believe that can be achieved in this world of plenty.

The charity's constitution sets out the focus of their charitable activities as:

- To provide a daily meal, in a place of education, for children in the world's poorest communities.
 - To provide relief for those suffering, in any part of the world, as a result of humanitarian crises or poverty; to help people escape poverty; and to provide care for orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children.
 - To raise awareness in the UK and worldwide of poverty issues through education.
- They are dedicated to their commitment to spend at least 93% of all funds received on these charitable activities.

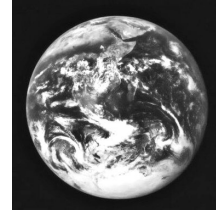
Mary's Meals works in 20 countries across Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, and the Caribbean. They are focused on one goal – that every child receives a nutritious daily meal in a place of education. These life-changing meals attract hungry children into the classroom. The food fills their empty bellies so they have the energy and opportunity to learn, giving them the chance of a brighter future. The meals also support families struggling to feed their children while boosting the country's wider economy. The school feeding programmes are owned and run by community volunteers in the countries where we provide food. For example, there are over 80,000 volunteers in Malawi who take turns to prepare, cook and serve the daily meal in each school. Wherever possible, they serve locally produced food. This supports the local community and its farmers as well as the wider economy.

Research has proven that school feeding has a range of positive impacts, since children who are not suffering from hunger are able to make the most of their education.

It costs £15.90 a year to make sure a child is fed for that year. So meals for 100 children will be £1590. Please support this campaign.

In addition, at both churches we are collecting food for the Foodbanks - there is a box in church for donations of dried or tinned goods.

Climate Change Coffee Chat



Following the COP26 conference, we decided it was a good time to meet to discuss ideas for action - how can we as individuals, a church, a community respond to the challenge of Climate change. Our first meeting was a lively morning - great to get together in a social setting but with a common purpose.

We had a good discussion of activities or efforts we were all making towards reducing our carbon footprint, reducing waste and actions to tackle climate change.

Carol had put together a table of leaflets/articles from newspapers and other information to get the ball rolling, but the enthusiastic group didn't need much encouragement to swap ideas and discuss new technologies.

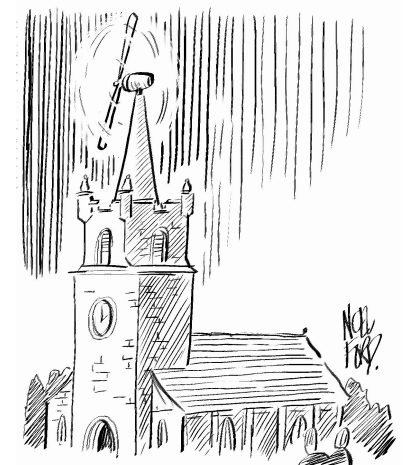
We had a report from the IPCC (the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) from February 2022 which detailed the potentially devastating effects of CC as a further basis for the discussions.

This chat mainly consisted of us all brainstorming actions - and the ideas were many and various (some examples in brackets). The main themes for us as individuals were transport (use our bus passes more), food (buy local or grow our own), heating (solar, heat pumps), power (LED bulbs, boil less water), recycling (refuse, reuse, reduce, recycle, repurpose), waste (plastic wrap, batteries, spectacles) gardening (composting, wormery). As a church, Vittoria reported that we are already ahead of many other Diocesan churches - with our new efficient heating system, a composting toilet, reusable crockery, Eco-church, Fairtrade Church amongst other aspects of our building and operation.

We hope that with further meetings, other congregation members will want to be involved and some practical actions can be identified for us each to consider and to implement at church.

Carol Simmons

There will be a follow-up meeting on **25th April at 10.30am - 12 noon**, again at Carol's home, 55 Charlton Park. All are welcome to take part.



"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"

Memories of Ancient Egypt

Some thirty years ago now I undertook a short 3 month assignment in Cairo, Egypt, with Jean accompanying me.

In my free time we were able to visit the major tourist attractions... the Pyramids, the Old City, the Khan-el-Khalili bazaar, as well as fitting in a British Embassy garden fete, but one of the most unusual attractions (not known by many visitors) was the Pharaonic Village, which I would like to tell you more about.

The concept was inaugurated some 50 years ago when a scientist was looking to grow the papyrus plant for fabrication after the art had been lost for nearly 1000 years. He settled on Jacob's Island, in the Nile just south of the larger Giza Island and opposite the Old City, where he obtained a 30 acre site.

The Pharaonic Village is built entirely in the ancient Egyptian style and inhabited by some 300 Egyptians living in the ancient style and practising all the agricultural and industrial activities with the same tools and implements used in Ancient Egypt.

It is surrounded by some 5000 trees tall enough to screen all the surrounding vestiges of modern life, and now teeming with birds and animals, enabling the visitor to feel he has gone back 5000 years in time.

Transportation in the village is carried out through navigable canals by means of boats (floating amphitheatres) from which visitors can see the villagers going about their daily tasks...from cutting papyrus and building reed boats to pottery making and linen spinning and weaving. There are temples to the Ancient Gods, houses for peasants and noblemen, even a market. (and for good measure, a restaurant and cafeteria!)

It's certainly novel and well worth a visit if you're in Cairo.

Peter Sowrey



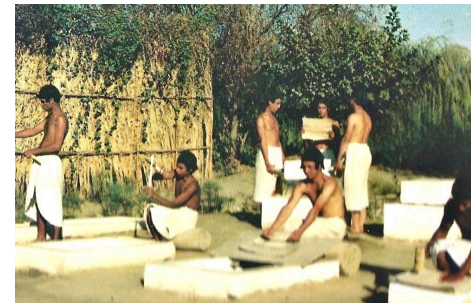
Boat building



Threshing



Temple to Ancient Gods



Papyrus making



Net fishing

And Jean's recollections of Cairo:

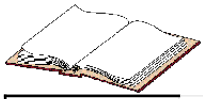
Peter has written of our experiences in Egypt. My own recollections of living in Cairo was that it seemed a city of ceaseless activity. I believe there were approximately 16 million people living in Cairo at the time. With such a huge number of people, this must have accounted for the heavy traffic, most vehicles tooting their horns all at the same time.

There were Cats everywhere ; even in cafes, as well as the streets; together with many Dogs, the latter tending to howl at night as well as menacing the Cats. Most Egyptians are Muslim so throughout the day on TV, Radio, and in places such as Cafes there are readings from the Koran. The Muezzin (meaning the call to Prayer) is heard 5 times a day from the Mosques loud speakers.

During our brief stay in Egypt we found people ever so friendly. I shall end by saying " INSHALLA " meaning "God Willing". This is said by all who meet you, even if they have never met before.

Jean Sowrey





Readings for April and May 2022

3rd April Passion Sunday	Isaiah 43:16-21 Philippians 3:4b-14 John 12:1-8	Anne Richardson	Rider Family
10th April Palm Sunday	Isaiah 50: 4-9a Philippians 2: 5-11 Luke 19: 28-40	Stanley Ewen	Anne Harper
14th April Maundy Thursday	Exodus 12.1-4(5-10)11-14, 1 Corinthians 11.23-26, John 13.1-17,31b-35	TBA	TBA
17th April EASTER SUNDAY	Isaiah 65.17-25 Acts 10.34-43 John 20.1-18 <i>or</i> Luke 24.1-12	Marcus Humphrey	Aboyne Family
24th April Easter 2	Acts 5.27-32 Revelation 1.4-8 John 20.19-31	Margaret Jaffray	Lara Elson
1st May Easter 3	Acts 9.1-6(7-20) Revelation 5.11-14 John 21.1-19	Sabrina Humphrey	Warren and Sue Burgess
8th May Easter 4	Acts 9.36-43 Revelation 7.9-17 John 10.22-30	Sabine Muir	Isabel Wilson
15th May Easter 5	Acts 11.1-18 Revelation 21.1-6 John 13.31-35	Hilary Mutch	Anne Harper
22nd May Easter 6	Acts 16.9-15 Revelation 21.10,22 – 22.5 John 14.23-29	Anne Richardson	Carol Simmons
29th May Ascension 1	Acts 16.16-34 Revelation 22.12-14,16-17,20-21 John 17.20-26	Carole Nicoll	Irene Legge

Maundy Thursday Services: There will be services of Holy Communion at 10.30am at St Kentigern' and at 6.00pm at St Thomas's

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

St. Kentigern's, 9.30am

1st Sunday Morning Worship
2nd Sunday Holy Communion 1982
3rd Sunday Holy Communion 1982
4th Sunday Holy Communion 1970
5th Sunday Morning Prayer

St. Thomas's, 11.15am

Morning Worship
Holy Communion 1982
Holy Communion 1970
Family Communion
Morning Prayer (Matins)

Sunday Club St. Kentigern's, Ballater

Children are welcome to attend any Sunday Service, and families are invited to use the materials in the Hall if so required.

The **St Kentigern's Sunday Club** normally meets on the **third Sunday of every month at 9.30am** in the Church Hall. The children are brought back into Church to join their families during the Offertory Hymn.

These Services will be advertised when they have been resumed.
Anne R.

Young Church at St. Thomas's

Children are welcome at all the services at St Thomas's. The children's corner contains books, colouring and toys for small children, so do make use of them.

Morning Worship at St. Thomas's
(on the first Sunday of the month)
 This is normally a non-Communion Service, not specifically for children, but they are of course especially welcome.

Next Services will be:
3rd April 'Passion and Glory'

1st May 'Breakfast on the beach'

The Chapel of St Ninian, Mar Lodge, Braemar

Services are paused meantime, the next ones will be advertised in due course

Easter Garden

In the garden daffodils bloom.
 Outside the city wall, darkness, death, destruction.
 In the garden, desolation, grief, despair.
 The tomb is empty.

In the garden at dawn, the sun rises, the sky brightens.
 Mary, weeping, hears the beloved's voice,
 Jesus speaks her name.
 Tears turn to joy.

The sky is brilliant blue, the golden sun warms the earth.
 Mary runs to spread the good news.
 Darkness and death are overcome,
 He is risen!

In the summer garden, there is hope.
 Sunflowers will bloom.

Carol Simmons

Youth Corner Jesus washes his disciples feet (*John 13*)

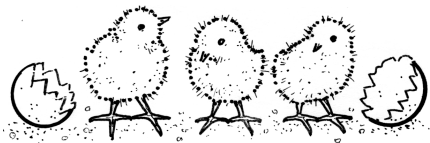


Easter Sunday, the Resurrection, when Jesus rose from the dead, is the most important day of the year for Christians. But before Easter, we have Holy Week, which tells the story of Jesus coming to Jerusalem, knowing that some of the Jews wanted to kill him.

One of the things that Jesus did during this week was the strange story of him washing his disciples feet, which happened on what we call Maundy Thursday. A day or two before the feast of the Passover, which was the great feast he and his disciples were coming to Jerusalem to celebrate, they had a supper together. And we are told that Jesus rose from the table,, took off his festive clothes, wrapped a towel round himself, poured water into a basin, and started to wash his disciples feet. Then he wiped them with the towel that he was wearing round himself.

This was a strange thing to be doing, but Jesus always did things for a reason. When he had returned to the table, he explained to his disciples that he had given them an example, he had shown them the kind of people he wanted them to be, that they should be happy to wash each other's feet. In fact, he was saying that they should act as servants to one another. And later, he gave them the new order, that they should love one another.

So Jesus was letting his disciples know that he did not want his disciples to think they could boss each other about, or try to be more important. He was telling them - and us - that we should serve each other, do what we can for them, and not try to be important ourselves. As he went to the Cross himself, he was saying what kind of people we should try to be.



We enjoy having those Easter eggs when we are celebrating Easter. All right, we love eating them! But they also suggest new life, the tiny chicken coming out of the egg-shell in the most amazing way. And at Easter we

are thinking of new life, of Jesus coming out of the tomb to a new life.

This is what we call the Resurrection. Jesus is alive!

**A joyful Easter
to everyone!**



Easter Sunday for the Children

Come and join in the celebrations for Easter. Christ is risen!

We are looking forward to Easter Day when we will have our usual **Easter Egg Hunt** in the grounds of St Thomas Church after the service. Come and see where they are hidden!



There is an **Easter Mural** on the wall where the children sit and play. The children can spend a bit of time putting something on this for everyone to see, perhaps a drawing or a few words for Easter. There will be stickers and colouring to help you.

There will be **Easter baskets** to make as well, so there will be plenty to keep everyone busy.

Come and join us!

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After Palm Sunday - The story of two donkeys

Two donkeys were walking along the streets of Jerusalem, when one said to the other: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey answered wisely: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

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Spring in Snowdonia:

Bala Walk

The snowdrops nod their heads
in greeting as we pass
Across the field
Where the moles have been active
In the hedgerow
Are the sprigs of pussy willow
Spring on the way
Catkins dangle from the trees
The birds sing
And in the reeds
the warblers can be found.

Vittoria Hancock

Gift of oak pedestal



Maggie Jaffray has kindly donated this beautiful pedestal to St Kentigern's Church.



She bought it thirty years ago at an auction, to match a cocktail bar which came from Culloden. It used to grace the Banchory Lodge Hotel, and later her home, Ravenswood in Ballater.

It is made of light oak and fits in perfectly with the furnishings in the church, as they are the same colour. It is ideal for flower arranging purposes, which Maggie excels at, as all would agree from the fantastic flower arrangements she has produced over the years.

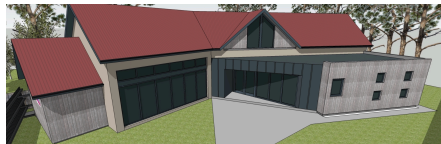
Thank you, Maggie, all at St Kentigern's are very grateful to you. The pedestal is sure to grace many a beautiful flower display in years to come.

Sabine Muir

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Braemar Sheiling#2 Project

We have raised £203,500 so far towards our next target for Phase 2 of the project, the shell of the building, costing about £250,000. So the fundraising continues.



As well as stamps, we have started collecting second-hand books Fact or Fiction which we can sell for funds - they have to have a barcode and ISBN number and be in reasonable condition.

Clear out your bookshelves and give them to **Sue Burgess**.

Many thanks.



News from Aboyne-Dinnet

A Daffodil coffee morning run by the Aboyne-Dinnet Church Guild will be held on 2nd April in the Church Hall on Huntly Road, between 10am -12 noon. There will also be a cake stall. All are welcome to join us.

Aboyne-Dinnet Church is having Contemporary Worship on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next Saturday Night Live evenings on 16th April, which is of course Easter Saturday. Hopefully by then we will not need masks anymore, so that our singing will be an even more enjoyable praise! The service starts at 6.30 pm in the Church Hall and everyone will be made very welcome!



In the afternoon of 16th April we are having a 'Ping-Pong Tournament'! This will also be in the Church Hall, starting at 2pm. The rules are simple: Everyone starts each round, bringing their own bat if they have one, and plays till they drop the ball, when they stand down. The last in wins the round. Then it all starts again. There will be a charge of £1 each, to be paid on the day, and tea, coffee or juice will be served to cool down.

And an advance notice - the Ladies Breakfasts will be starting again, hopefully during the summer. Keep a look-out for notices of the dates and speakers.

Christa Markham

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The Wonders of Nature

I put up a new nesting box last year, and was thrilled to have a family of great tits making it their home. The year before, I also had great tits but in a different box, with an entrance hole made steadily larger over the years. First the blue tits used it, then as it grew larger the great tits took over. The last year, the hole became seriously large, and I am pretty sure it was a woodpecker, who probably took the baby tits for itself. Nature can be so cruel.



However, after the success of last year's box, I have had two more put up recently, both with small holes for the lovely blue tits, one with a shield round the hole, the other in a different material altogether. So I hope that will give the blue tits a chance!

But look at the photo above - the nesting box had only been there for an hour or two when a great tit decided this might be for her!. I think probably not, she was trying to pick at the hole to widen it, but the shield stood firm. But how encouraging to have interest so soon! I am hopeful -

Sheila Maxwell

BASS NOTES

Pocahontas and Whippets

In these times of war and pestilence, we need some light relief, some sign that the world has not gone completely dark and mad. At such times, the serious Christian may turn to God; the dyslexic Christian, as the old joke has it, may turn to Dog. Talking of which, while I have been a dog owner for only a few short years, Johanna has loved dogs all her life, so, for her, the arrival of Crufts this year was a welcome high point of lightness, cheer and dog silliness set against the current bleakness of the world.



Crufts is controversial. For some it is an exhibition of dog cruelty; for others it is a festival of canine love and joy. The only part of Crufts that really grabs my attention is the hounds section, and particularly that part where whippets are trotted round the ring by their handlers. This year, in an attempt to improve his behaviour, I sat our whippet, Archie, beside me and said to him, 'Look, Archie, well behaved, obedient whippets. Fragrant dogs who follow their owner's every command, who don't constantly seek biscuits, who don't bark pointlessly and who don't stare at life mournfully, looking for all the

world as if their master regularly beats them senseless and is the cause of all the problems in their world.'

Archie seemed uninterested in learning from these on-screen canine paragons, preferring to amble off to his bowl to see what might, or might not, have dropped into it. Perhaps he needed counselling. Perhaps he was worried about world affairs. Perhaps he was just being a whippet.

I have always felt that Archie does not appreciate how un-woke or politically incorrect some of his views are – particularly his attitude to cats - so next day I read out to him an article that appeared in the Times about a 'routine' at Crufts in which a handler, Kristine Hodgson, dressed in native American costume, sported pigtails and acted out the story of Pocahontas with her dog, Astra Sieva, a border collie. One Australian critic of this act said '...perhaps they are ignorant of how damaging wearing a costume of a culture is.... It trivialises and makes a mockery of marginalised cultures and reinforces negative stereotypes.' The routine appeared to offend a number of others, too. Archie offered no opinion. Crufts apologised for the act and for putting a video of Kristine's and Astra's Pocahontas routine on their website. Shortly after apologising, they deleted the video.



Undoubtedly the real life Pocahontas, who lived in the early seventeenth century, was badly treated by twenty-first century standards, and the Disney film builds a fantasy on the few facts that are known about her life. On the other hand she might have vanished into the mists of history had it not been for the film-makers who earned fortunes from her story.

So, having started by promising you light relief, I leave you with two serious questions:

1. Was Kristine's routine just a bit of fun or was it unacceptable cultural appropriation?
2. Did Crufts do the right thing by apologising and deleting the video?

Answers on a postcard, please.

Eric Sinclair

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This prayer is attributed to Brother Lawrence, a seventeenth century monk living in a Carmelite Monastery, and working as a humble kitchen worker, there to do everyone's bidding. And he believed that God was there with him. He is famous, among other things, for his writings, compiled in the volume "The Practice of the Presence of God"

Kitchen Prayer

Lord of all pots and pans and things,
Since I've no time to be
A saint by doing lovely things
or watching late with Thee,
Or dreaming in the dawn light
Or storming heaven's gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals,
And washing plates.

Although I must have Martha's hands,
I have a Mary mind;
And when I black the boots and shoes,
Thy sandals, Lord, I find.
I think of how they trod the earth,
Each time I scrub the floor;
Accept this meditation, Lord,
I haven't time for more.

Warm all the Kitchen with Thy love,
And light it with Thy peace;
Forgive me all my wrongdoing,
And make all grumbling cease.
Thou Who didst love to give men food,
In room or by the sea,
Accept this service that I do-
I do it unto Thee.

Easter in Cyprus.

In 2008 we decided to go to Cyprus for our holiday so on the 22nd April we flew off to Paphos and settled in at the Agapinor hotel at 5 p.m, but on the way we kept seeing large decorated Easter Eggs The next day we thought we'd book some tours, but they were very limited because we found out that it was the Easter holidays In Cyprus . . We had already celebrated Easter on the 23 rd of March at home.

Nevertheless, we did manage to book a bus tour to Limassol which was very interesting and we thoroughly enjoyed the day out.

However we were given lots of pamphlets and one was for the Flower Festival in Paphos so decided that one looked promising and off we set to visit it on foot.

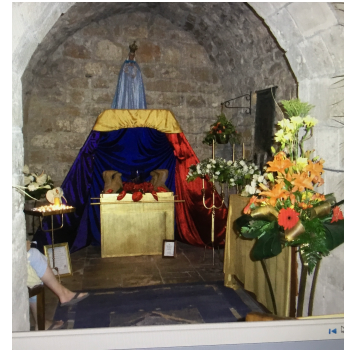


Flowers telling a Bible story



Well, it was wonderful and magnificent. We were warmly welcomed and given a catalogue which explained each display with a Bible story. We took lots of photos of the beautiful flowers and displays but silly me didn't think to tick off on the catalogue which photo belonged to which story.

All the time we were going round a lovely CD was playing quietly and as we both liked it, we were able to buy a copy of it on the way out, Keith Routledge's Piano Presence.



More flowers telling a Bible story

We also took a photo of the outside of Ayia Kyriaki Church, by St. Paul's Pillar near Paphos Harbour. Approaching Ayia Kyriaki Church there were lots of different stalls on the way in, all helping the church funds. I was very intrigued to be standing on the same ground that St. Paul had stood on all those years ago.



Ayia Kyriaki Church

It really was a remarkable and unforgettable visit in Cyprus.

Eileen Davies

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Dem Bones, dem bones

It has been said that the body of any organisation is made up of four types of bones....

There are the Wishbones – who spend their time wishing someone else would do something about the problem under discussion....

There are the Jawbones – who spend their time talking about the problem.

There are the Knucklebones – who spend their time knocking everything that everyone has already done or would like to do.

Finally, there are the Backbones who quietly come along, get under the load, and carry it!

Which type of bone are you?

Betty Mason

Betty was a stalwart member of St Thomas's Church for many years, until she became too disabled to attend. She was born in Sutton, Surrey, and spent her early years there, apart from a spell during the war. Her father and brothers were away fighting, but she stayed at home with her mother and sister until they were bombed out, when they moved to Carlisle for a while.



Betty married Mike Mason, to whom she had four children. The first, Sheila, died at 3 months of cystic fibrosis, and Betty remained supportive of the Cystic Fibrosis Trust all her life. The other three married, and gave Betty 9 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren, to her great pleasure. Mike died in 1996.

Betty and Mike moved to Aboyne when he retired in 1986, and Betty became an active member of the community. Apart from her loyalty to St Thomas's, she was a volunteer with WRVS, and for many years was the secretary of the Aboyne branch of the SWRI. Her name would often appear as a prizewinner in the flower arranging or cake making! She moved to Bonty Court in her latter years, and was not so active, as she became less mobile.

Betty's son Jeff described her as resilient, loyal, caring and respectful - typical of her generation. She was indeed very straightforward, a good person to have known.

Sheila Maxwell

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The best position in which to pray

Three theologians at a conference centre sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely best," said one, and backed up his claim by quoting a number of New Testament texts on humility in Greek.

"No," another contended. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven." He quoted a few texts on praise in Latin.

"You're both wrong," the third insisted. "The most effective prayer position is lying prostrate, face down on the floor." He quoted a few texts on penitence in Hebrew.

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Sorry to interrupt," he said, "but the best praying I ever did was in English, hanging upside down from a telephone pole!"

Personnel

Baptism

Kimhan Fennell is to be baptised in St Kentigern's at the end of May

Please pray for her and her family as they celebrate, and pray that they may feel welcomed into the family of the church.

Wedding

Emma English and Peter Amos are to be married in St Kentigern's in April

Please pray for this couple at this new stage of their journey together.

Funerals

The funeral of Maureen Erskine, late of St Kentigern's, took place in February

The funeral of Betty Mason of St Thomas' took place at the beginning of March.

The funeral of Heather Allan of Ballater took place at the beginning of March.

Please pray for their families as they mourn the loss of a loved one.

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A Grace

(credited to Lancelot Fleming, Dean of Windsor)

O Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge

(Stiff, stodgy and hard to stir)

But may we be like cornflakes:

crisp, fresh . . . and ready to serve.

Amen

BUT - there was this Scottish Grace as a riposte:

O Lord, grant that we may not be like cornflakes

(lightweight, brittle and cold)

but may we be like porridge -

Warm, comforting, and full of natural goodness.

Amen

Rev'd Vittoria Hancock normally says the daily office of **Morning Prayer** on Monday's at 8.30am in St Kentigern's, and on Wednesday's at 9am in St Thomas's, - meantime discontinued. It lasts about 15 minutes, and anyone is welcome to join her.

Pastoral Cards for the sick or bereaved

We have a small selection of very helpful pastoral cards, which are suitable to send from the Church to anyone who is sick, going into hospital, or bereaved. They include appropriate readings and prayers. Recipients have commented on the encouragement and comfort these cards have brought them.

If you would like a pastoral card sent to a friend from:

St Thomas's, Aboyne
Please contact Meg White
Tel 013398 80034

St Kentigern's, Ballater
Please contact Doreen Ewen
Tel 013397 55538

WEB-SITES

St Thomas's Web-site is meantime being transferred and upgraded. The new link will be publicised when it is available. Meantime if you want to get in touch, please email:
stthomasaboyne@gmail.com

St Kentigern's Web-site is:
stkentigernballater.aodiocese.org.uk

Prayer Chain Ministry

"Devote yourselves to prayer,
being watchful and thankful."

Colossians Ch 4 v2



A small group meets for prayer as requested. The group prays for anyone who requires it, which may be for healing, guidance, strength in a difficult situation or for thanksgiving. Prayer can be for yourself or for someone else (with their permission). Confidentiality is maintained at all times.

The group members are eager to be contacted at any time for prayer, visitation or simply for a listening and sympathetic ear.

Please consider joining us in the uplifting and essential ministry of prayer. We really need as many as possible to support our Prayer Group.
Doreen Ewen Tel 013397 55538

Important

The Tattler needs you!

Please send news, articles, stories, fillers, or anything else you can think of to enrich the Tattler. It can only be as good as you make it!

The next Edition is starting now.
Please give or send all contributions to the Editor,
or to Anne Richardson at Ballater,
by May 17th

CONTACTS :

Treasurer
Secretary
Lay Representative
Vestry Members

Sacristan
Assistant Sacristan
Organist
Youth Leader
Child Protection Officer
Chalice Bearers

Secretary
Treasurer
Lay representative
Vestry Members

Organist and Publicity
Child Protection Officer
Sacristan and Altar Guild
Chalice Bearers
Flowers
Rector's Warden
People's Warden
(Maintenance Officer)
Patron

ST. KENTIGERN'S

Marcus Humphrey
Sabine Muir
Hilary Mutch
Joy Harvey
Margaret Jaffray
Amanda Kentish
John Lovie
Sabine Muir
Anne Richardson
Susan Smith
Hilary Mutch
Barbara Simpson
Stanley Ewen
Anne Richardson

Roger Searle, Mary Fennell, Marcus Humphrey,
Joy Harvey, John Richardson, Michael Adie

ST. THOMAS'S

Anne Harper
Sue Burgess
Anne Harper
Warren Burgess
Daphne Laing
Sheila Maxwell
Katherine Rider
Carol Simmons
Lesley Thomas

Sheila Maxwell
Lesley Thomas

Irene Legge, Daphne Laing, Jo Elson
Warren Burgess, Peter Sowrey

Jill Binns
Daphne Laing
Warren Burgess

Michael Bruce

ST. NINIAN'S

Dr Hugh Dawson: Lay Reader, Treasurer, Organist
Astrid Cheyne: Flowers
Anne Richardson: Child Protection Officer

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Michael Adie John Lovie