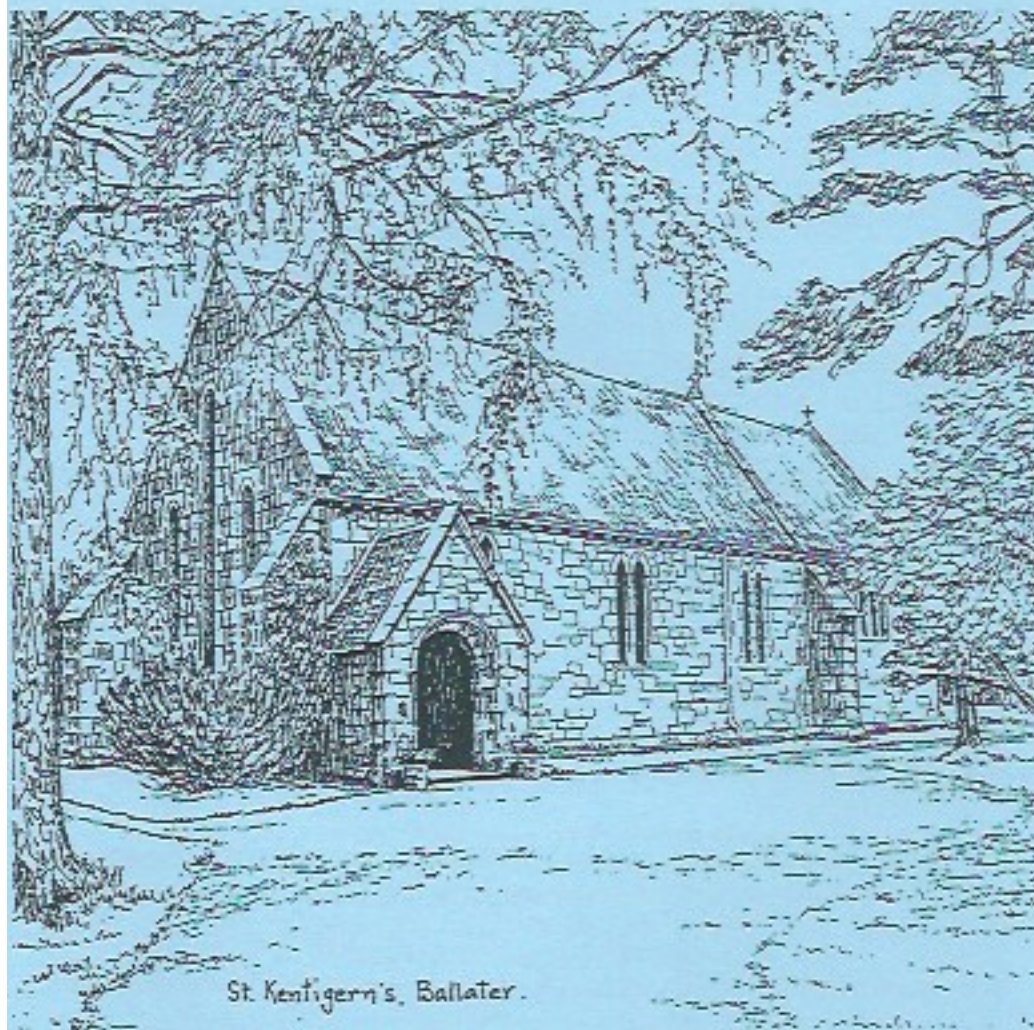


The Deeside Tattler

June and July 2022



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



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

Midweek Communions

Tuesday, 10.30am, June 14th, July 12th, St Thomas'

Thursday, 10.30am, June 23rd, July 28th, St Kentigern's

Dates for the Diary

May 31st 1.30pm Baptism of Kimhan Fennell

June 2nd - 5th Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend

June 5th **Pentecost Sunday**

June 9th – 11th, General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Edinburgh

June 16th, 7.30pm, St Thomas' Vestry, at Anne Harper's

June 18th, Celebration Day at the Victory Hall, Aboyne

July 7th 7.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry, at Maggie Jaffray's

July 23rd, 1pm, Wedding blessing and baptism

July 24th, 2pm, Rededication of the Ballater War Memorial

August 6th – 14th Ballater Victoria Week

August 7th, Baptism of Theo Mellett, St Thomas'



From the Editor: Over the first weekend in June, our country will celebrate the seventy years on the throne of Queen Elizabeth. This is reflected in our magazine, notably in our Rector's Letter, which among other things, notes the Christian ideal of the Monarch's service to the people. Our churches will mark the occasion in their own ways, including the planting of special trees, which also takes in our need for care for the Planet.

The same weekend marks one of the most important days in the Church's year, that of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and so the birth of the Church. After that comes Trinity Sunday, which finally brings the Christian story together.

We have our usual mix of articles, all very welcome. Our thanks to all the contributors - and do keep them coming. There would be no magazine to edit without you! **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee is fast approaching and plans for many a party are afoot. There are plans to plant a tree for the Jubilee in both St Kentigern's and St Thomas'. I don't know what your views are on the monarchy. Some may see it as a vital element of our constitution ; others may see it as an outdated and redundant institution. The idea of the monarchy in the Bible stipulates what kind of leader the king has to be. The king of Israel was to be subservient to God and his law. They were there to serve the people. This is the image of kingship we see in Christ the King. And this is the type of kingship that has been modelled to the best of her ability by Her Majesty the Queen.

Whatever your views on monarchy, the Queen has been the ruler of this country for 70 years. She has dealt with a world war, various other conflicts, recessions, decolonization, the diversification of British society. She has managed a number of difficulties within the royal family itself. Through ups and downs, she has been a point of stability. She has been steadfast, faithful, discreet. She has demonstrated that she sees her primary calling as to serve the people of her land. There are things we can all learn from her.

In a changing world, she has adapted her way of being and her way of thinking. This is a radically different world to the world in which she came to the throne. She has moved with the changes and grown with them. She has recognised that views held previously may no longer be valid today- and has been prepared to adapt and apologise. When we are faced with change – as we all are - we have a choice to turn our backs on it, or to grow with it. To stay in our own small world, or to explore outwards.

From her first tour to Australia, to her programme of personal visits, to royal garden parties, she has demonstrated the power of personal touch and communication. Even in the recent pandemic, she has continued to do so, adapting to the use of online meetings such as Zoom. She has reached out to people, spoken to people, listened to people. There is power in relationships. Only through building them can we seek to understand each other, can we live alongside each other.

The Queen has entertained rulers and leaders of different views and different morals to her own. At times she has been condemned for this. Too often when we are faced with those whose views or actions we disagree with, we ignore them, or rebuke them. But change, tolerance, relationship, does not begin by blocking those you disagree with, but by meeting them, listening to them, speaking to them.

Her Majesty is known for her faith. Not that she shouts about it from the rooftops, but that it underpins her life. She has not always got things right – she is not perfect. But her faith has provided her with structures for how she deals with people, how she speaks to people, how she serves people.

What is the framework upon which your life is built? What are the structures which underpin it? Is it based on love of others, service of community, care for creation? Do you object to change, or adapt to change? Do you isolate and ignore those with different views, or do you listen to them? Are you a relationship seeker, a community builder? For these are the structures which make the world a better place.

As churches we seek to love others, we attempt to serve our communities, we try to care for creation. We are not always successful, but we try. We do this because we are seeking to follow the commandment we were given 'Love your neighbour as yourself'. This would seem to be a good motto for all, for those of any faith and those of none.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

A prayer for the Jubilee *(from the Scottish Episcopal Church)*

Almighty and eternal God,
you uphold and govern all things
both in heaven and on earth,
and by your grace alone kings and queens do reign.

We thank you for all the blessings which you have bestowed upon us
throughout the reign of our sovereign lady, Queen Elizabeth,
whom you have set over us these threescore years and ten.

We thank you for the wisdom of her guidance and her love of peace,
for the care and devotion with which she has served her people,
for the example of her gracious life.

As we rejoice before you with thankful hearts,
we pray that we may ever be united in love and service to one another,
as people called to live according to your will,
for the good of all the world,
and the glory of your great name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Queen's Gift

We know that the Queen and her family are involved with a very large number of charities, who get welcome publicity from their input. We do not know what practical help they give, this can only be guessed. But we do know that St Kentigern's is one that unfailingly receives a 'Queen's Gift' for the yearly Fayre.

This year Her Majesty the Queen has very kindly donated 3 boxed pairs of crystal sherry glasses, to be raffled in aid of St Kentigern's Church.

St Kentigern's is very grateful that the Brakeley Gift Room is once again displaying this year's Queen's Gift raffle prize.

Tickets are £1 each and available at the Brakeley Gift Room, Ballater and in Yule's the newsagents. They are also available from Sabine. The draw takes place at St Kentigern's annual Fayre on Saturday, 10th September 2022.



St Andrews Declaration in practice

Some of you may remember that last year something called the St Andrew's Declaration was signed between the Scottish Episcopal Church and the Church of Scotland. The St Andrew's Declaration aimed to give formal permission and encouragement to Church of Scotland Churches and Scottish Episcopal Churches to work in partnership with each other, and to share human, spiritual and physical resources where appropriate. This might be through sharing a building, sharing pastoral care, worshipping together, running community projects and so on. Working together between churches is of course nothing new, and has always been allowed. The Declaration was put in place to formalise the permission.

In this area we have recently had two practical examples of the St Andrew's Declaration in practise. The first was at the funeral of the Rev Jean Souter, a deacon in the Scottish Episcopal Church. Her funeral took place at the local Church of Scotland, for various reasons, but was led by ministers of both denominations, with the Rev Frank Ribbons, the Rev Canon Vittoria Hancock, and the Rev Isaac Poobalan leading Holy Communion. The second event was at St Thomas', while Vittoria was away, when the Rev Andrew Wilson led the service of Holy Communion. While Andrew has done a number of things in St Thomas' previously, this was the first time he had led a service of Holy Communion.

We already work together with our sister churches in both Ballater and Aboyne, with ecumenical services at key times in the Christian calendar, joint presence at community events, and involvement in each others social events. This is another step on the way to Christian unity.

Vittoria Hancock

Help for those in need



During Lent, as well as the main Lent Appeal for Mary's Meals, both churches were collecting donations of dry or tinned food for the local food banks. There is still a great need for help for the most vulnerable in our society, which is likely to get worse as food prices go up dramatically. There are boxes in both churches for this, and it would be an enormous help if people would bring a donation with them when they come to church. It would soon mount up!

The Ballater food pantry is an initiative set up to reduce food waste and encourage food share in the Ballater community. They run from 12-2 on Wednesdays in the Beaton Craigie room, in the Victoria and Albert Halls. The entrance to the Beaton Craigie room is on Monaltrie Road. Every week they get fresh produce and goods from supermarkets and shops.

The food pantry is committed to reducing food waste, especially during these trying times, when prices are rising. Everyone can just pop in to help themselves to whatever is available that week, from bread and rolls, vegetables, fruits, dried goods and tins.

FoodShare in Aboyne keeps food in a shed at the school, from which it distributes food to various local outlets for people to come and help themselves at any time during the day. This gives people most in need access to the food they need, without any hassle or embarrassment.

Quiet Spaces

The use of quiet spaces in nature has been highlighted as beneficial to mental and spiritual well-being. Nature has a very wide definition – it can mean green spaces such as parks, woodland, or forests as well as blue spaces like rivers, wetlands, beaches or canals. It also includes trees on an urban street, private gardens, verges and even indoor plants or window boxes.

Over the last couple of years, we have been developing quiet spaces in the grounds of both St Thomas' and St Kentigern's.

The space in St Thomas' is a spot which you might perceive as being quite noisy, due to its location. If you go through the grounds to the corner where Ballater Road and Bridgeview Road meet, you will find a spot which is sunk below the level of the road. With the surrounds of the retaining wall, the sound from passing traffic is muffled. You will find a bench there to sit on, and in the summer, the retaining wall has wild flowers, seeded by Sue Burgess in the first Covid lockdown. Alan Thomas and the Aboyne Men's Shed have just built us a raised bed to go on the wall, so that we can plant things with more depth of soil. There is an old tree stump, which has been planted with herbs, and some tubs with potatoes growing in. On the nearby trees there are a couple of bird boxes. Over time, the plan is to develop this area further. The next step is to make it more easily accessible.

The space at St Kentigern's is just outside the hall. If you go down the west end of the church building, there is a flower bed, and some shrubs, ending in an old apple tree. In the flower bed you will find various herbs, and in the summer, various vegetable plants also end up in there. Douglas Mutch has been working on that area for several years now. We grow the grass long in that part of the grounds, as it is better for wildlife and for the environment. The plan is to plant under the tree and wider with wild flower seeds, working with Ballater Climate Action Network. We also have potatoes growing behind St Kentigern's. The hope is to get a bench there so that the peace and quiet can be enjoyed.

In both places the aim is two-fold. Firstly to provide a quiet, reflective space for people to come and be in nature. Secondly, to develop an environmentally sustainable area of our grounds which is good for wildlife, providing a refuge for nature.

Vittoria Hancock

Shoes

A timid curate went into a shoe shop to try on some shoes. “Try those – they are just right for you,” decreed the very superior sales assistant.

The curate struggled to get the shoes fastened, but he failed.

The assistant frowned and looked down. “Well, no wonder. Try pulling the tongue out.”

“Well, theyth sthill feelth a bith tighth.”



A long day

Coronation Day, nearly 70 years ago

The 2nd June 1953, the Coronation Day of Queen Elizabeth II, was for me a totally unique and marvellous day. As luck would have it, my parents had a friend who was in charge of the seating in Westminster Abbey and he was able to get us two seats in a covered stand outside Buckingham Palace. It was decided that I should be in one of these and I think my parents tossed a coin as to who would take me. My mother won so my father stayed in Yorkshire, buying our first television set as consolation prize.

We had a week off school and my mother and I spent this in a small hotel near Oxford Street. The day before the Coronation some one took us on a practice walk to the Palace. We reckoned that to be on the safe side we should allow an hour. We had to be in our seats by 7 a.m. so, armed with sandwiches, we set off at 6 a.m. Most of the way we walked through quiet empty streets but as we approached the Palace this all changed. Thousands of people were lining the Mall and it was all very peaceful and good humoured.

Before taking our seats we bought a newspaper and there was the incredible headline that Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay had reached the summit of Mt. Everest. That news really set the tone for the whole day. Before long the procession of visiting royalty and heads of state was rumbling past us in horse drawn carriages on their way to Westminster Abbey. Almost 30,000 service men from Britain and the Commonwealth marched as well and, as I remember, the Queen Mother came first from the Palace in the Irish State Coach. Suddenly there was the gold State Coach carrying the Queen, glittering in diamonds and accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, coming slowly past escorted by the Household Cavalry and the Yeomen of the Guard.

In the Abbey the Coronation Service took about three hours and then the procession started returning, by a much longer route, 5 miles this time. The rain had started in earnest by now and most of the carriages were closed. Queen Salote of Tonga, with a rather sad looking little Sultan, braved the rain to huge cheering. My memory is the music of the bands and colour. Last of all came the State Coach with the waving Queen, by now wearing the Imperial State Crown in place of the diadem we know from stamps.

Soon all the Royal Family were on the Palace balcony and we could just see the small figures of Prince Charles and Princess Anne waving over the parapet. We went back, we thought to supper and the end of the day, but a friend appeared in a car and took us off, I don't remember any supper. We went to Piccadilly where people were dancing and singing in the streets and then we drove to the Palace. The Queen came out again on the balcony and switched on the illuminations of London. No one felt like going to bed by now and our day ended by my first (of few) visits to a smart night club. Thinking back I hope the Queen had such a marvellous day as I did.

Jane Kruuk

My day was nothing like as exciting as Jane's, but I still have the Coronation mug that was given to all the schoolchildren by Cambridge City Council!

Sheila



Easter Vigil at Aboyne

Members of the congregations of St Thomas's and Aboyne-Dinnet joined in this ancient tradition, full of symbolism, the carrying of the Easter light into the church to light the Easter candle.



Fortunately it was a lovely warm evening. We met outside the church around the unlit bonfire, and were each given an unlit small candle. At dusk, the bonfire was lit, a few prayers were said, and there was the reading from Isaiah 60, 'Arise, shine, for your light has come.' Then the Pascal Candle was lit from the fire.

The next part was the most dramatic. The two clergy, Vittoria and Frank, led everyone towards the church, taking the lit Pascal Candle with them. Three times they stopped, waiting a moment for people to catch up, then loudly declaimed 'The Light of Christ.' And all the people echoed this, before moving on again. And so the light was taken into the church.



The final part was again shared between the two churches, Vittoria and Frank each taking a part of the short service. But first all the candles were lit, starting with the fire of the Pascal Candle, which was then passed on to everyone present. With all the candles lit, we listened to the reading from St Mark, the story of the women finding the empty tomb. We all said the Nunc Dimittis together, and there was a final prayer. And some Alleluias to finish with a good climax.

And of course refreshments followed, and fellowship between the two churches, to round off this meaningful ceremony, full of ancient symbolism.



BASS NOTES

How to eat: the new rules

Under the headline above, there she was, staring at me from my newspaper, an attractive young female journalist dangling her fork over a bowl of spaghetti and vegetables and helpfully offering me an insight into something I've been doing – successfully, I thought – since the middle of last century: eating. Yes, you read that correctly. This dark-eyed young maiden was apparently offering advice on how to get what is on a plate in front of you into your mouth via a fork. There were three questions to tempt me into reading further: 1. *Should you start the day with a coffee?* 2. *Should you eat protein before carbs?* 3. *Should you drink wine before or after a meal?*



I get this newspaper delivered every day by the 'Paper Girls' in Aboyne because, like me, it supports boringly middle of the road views, leaning neither to extreme left nor extreme right. It also assumes a basic level of intelligence among its readers. I bet most of its readers know how to eat, so what was going on here?

I was pretty certain I knew the answers to all three questions without reading her article. To question 1. The answer must be *Coffee can raise your spirits and set you up for the day*. Question 2. *Who cares?* Question 3. *Before, during and after a meal, depending on mood, the day of the week, the budget available and the wine/food combination on offer*. In fact the answer to all three questions could be *Who cares?* A killjoy friend of mine, as he got older and grumpier, used to say when confronted with a quiz night or similar that *Who cares?* is the answer to every question that can be asked.

It turned out that the article was one of those 'health research' ones, based on work by a dietician appropriately named Anita Bean, articles which purport to reveal ways in which you can have a healthier, happier, longer life (according to researchers). I've met a few researchers. Some are perfectly normal, pleasant people. I'm sure Anita is one of those. Let's just say, some of them live in a different world. It is quite common for some research, enthusiastically promoted one week, to be completely contradicted a few weeks later. Context is all. There are many parts of the world where having anything – anything at all – to eat is a daily struggle. 'How to eat' leads to a completely different set of questions and answers in such places.

For what it's worth the 'correct' answers to the eating questions in our fortunate country are apparently:

Q1. *Do not start the day with coffee.*

Q2. *Eat protein before carbs.*

Q3. *Drink wine only with food*

Personally, I don't think you are doomed if you fail to follow that advice, but I wish you a long, healthy and happy life, and please acknowledge the part reading *Bass Notes* played when they come to interview you for the telly on your 110th birthday. And take everything with a pinch of salt.

Eric Sinclair

Climate Change Coffee Morning



The coffee morning on April 25th was a follow up from the one we had at the end of February (see *The Deeside Tattler* April and May 2022). Several people came who couldn't come last time, so it was particularly good to hear their thoughts and ideas.

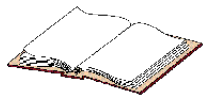
The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, meeting in 2020, called on the whole church to work towards a target of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2030. Ten points for guidance were endorsed and commended by the Synod last year, and it was encouraging to see that in our church, we are already following a number of their recommendations such as having electric heating, while a number of us try to use public transport, walk or cycle as much as possible.

One or two people wondered if our individual actions could make any difference, when the decisions of governments and big corporations largely determine policies on the environment and climate change. We agreed that even small changes may have an effect and as individuals we can, for example, vote at company AGM's eg Co-op, National Trust, write to our MP or sign petitions. As the local elections were the following week, two or three of us wrote to different candidates, and shared their interesting and often detailed responses to our climate change questions.

We would probably use public transport more, if there were more frequent buses on the main Deeside routes and the fares were cheaper, since not everyone is eligible for a bus pass! Anne found out and circulated the timetable and contact details for the Aboyne district Community bus which is helpful.

We will probably have another meeting in the autumn, and meanwhile will find out about local groups which are concerned about reducing our energy use and hence carbon emissions, as well as doing as much as we can as a church and as individuals.

Carol Simmons



Readings for June and July 2022

5th June PENTECOST	Genesis 11:1-9 Acts 2:1-21 John 14:8-17	Hilary Mutch	Rider Family
12th June TRINITY SUNDAY	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15	Stanley Ewen	Andrew Wilson
19th June	Isaiah 65:1-9 Galatians 3: 23-29 Luke 8: 26-39	Margaret Jaffray	Carol Simmons
26th June	1 Kings 19:15-16, 19-21 Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Luke 9: 51-62	Sabine Muir	Anne Harper
3rd July St Thomas'	Habakkuk 2:1-4 Hebrews 10: 35 – 11:1 John 20: 24-29	Anne Richardson	Irene Legge
10th July	Deuteronomy 30: 9-14 Colossians 1:1-14 Luke 10: 25-37	Sabrina Humphrey	Isabel Wilson
17th July	Genesis 18:1-10a Colossians 1:15-28 Luke 10:38-42	Carole Nicoll	The Burgesses
24th July	Genesis 18: 20-32 Colossians 2: 6-15 Luke 11:1-13	Marcus Humphrey	Carol Simmons
31st July	Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21	Hilary Mutch	Anne Harper

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

St. Kentigern's, 9.30am

St. Thomas's, 11.15am

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

The Chapel of St Ninian, Mar Lodge, Braemar

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

Where is God?

Here

Blossom and birdsong,
Bluebells and buttercups,
Dandelions and daisies,
Sunshine and smiles.

There

An empty tomb,
No grave, no body,
Father, brother, mother, child and friend,
Bombed, destroyed, murdered.
Loss, grief, streams of tears.

Where is God?

On the cross in suffering and desolation,
In the garden, calling your name.
Working to bring peace and new hope,
Enfolding all in his steadfast love.

Carol Simmons

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 July Walking with Thomas
7th August The promises of God

From the Bible for the young, and not so young

Jesus and His disciples by the shore



We know the Easter story, of how Jesus was put to death, then rose again after three days. He showed himself to his disciples several times, and they knew he was alive again.

One of the loveliest stories is told in John 21, when Peter decided he was going fishing - what else was there to do now? - and the disciples with him decided to join him. So they went out, and really worked hard, but did not catch anything all night. They came towards the shore of the lake at about dawn, and saw someone they did not recognise asking them if they had caught anything - and of course they said 'No!' So he told them to cast their nets on the right side of the boat - and there was a whole shoal of fish, so many they could hardly manage it all without breaking the nets! They were astonished.

Then they realised - this was Jesus! Peter was so excited that he flung on his clothes and waded through the sea to get to Jesus. Typical! The others came in the boat. And there was Jesus ready with breakfast for them, with a charcoal fire to cook the fish, and bread to have with it. So when they had got the net ashore with all the fish in it, Jesus gave them the bread, and then the fish. This must have felt very familiar to them.

Then when they had finished their breakfast, Jesus turned to Peter and said 'Do you love me?' Peter of course said yes, he loved him - and Jesus said to him 'feed my lambs'. But he asked Peter twice more, so that he got rather upset - of course he loved Jesus. And Jesus said to him 'tend my sheep', then 'feed my sheep'. Jesus had often used the idea of the shepherd caring for his sheep, when speaking of himself and of God the Father. Peter was to follow Jesus in his caring for people.

And we can follow Jesus in the same way - he will give to us as he gave to his disciples, then ask that we will care for others.

Pentecost, or Whit Sunday

5th June is an important Sunday this year. It is the day we celebrate the seventieth year of the Queen's reign. It is also the day we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples in Jerusalem.

It is an amazing story. We are told, in Acts chapter 2, that the disciples had met together, when suddenly there was a sound of great wind filling the house. Then it was like tongues of fire moving round and sitting on each of them, as in the picture.



And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They were of course very excited, and all started speaking at once, and could be understood in all different languages!

There was such a commotion that a lot of people came to see what was happening. Someone suggested they were drunk, but Peter got up and explained all about the Holy Spirit, and how Jesus had told them before he died that this would happen.

And this was the beginning of the Christian Church, which spread through the world and is still with us here today.

And what better day to pray for fresh spiritual fire for each of us?

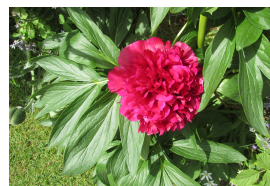
A life with plants

I was lucky to live in the countryside as a child, appreciating nature around me. I was the youngest child with much older siblings, our mother died when I was two. My friends were the birds, insects, spiders, and bees. I spent hours watching them. I loved watching plants and flowers grow, and by the age of ten, I knew all their botanical names. I enjoyed walks along the nearby Albert canal in spring when I was rewarded by the yellow of the broom bursting into life, warmed by the sun, and inhaling the rich creamy aroma, as I watched the barges go by.



Lilac about to open

My father was a great gardener. He grew his own vegetables. Fruit trees in the orchard, apples, pears, plums, and cherries, we had plenty of wonderful tasting fruit and berries. Our drive had chestnut trees and a two walnut trees. Members of our family visiting at weekends always left carrying a box of produce. My grandmother preserved vegetables and fruit in Kilner jars, which we stored in our provisions cellar. It really was the good life, an idyllic lifestyle.



Sabine's peony

On a recent google maps search of the house where I grew up, I was delighted to see that it is still there, and so are the trees. The garden has changed, and everything looks much smaller than I remember, but it instantly took me back to my childhood days. How wonderful that modern technology can connect us with the past. And how flowers and plants connect us to precious memories and people we have lost. Freesias will forever be associated with my early spring wedding, as they were in my bouquet. Peonies, marigolds and dahlias remind me of my father, so I have planted some in my garden. I have also planted two lilacs, a purple one and a white one, and am excited to see the first flowers unfurl, inhaling the aroma so loved in my youth, the connection with the past so vivid, unearthing memories of my happy carefree childhood.



Oriental poppies

When my father eventually remarried when I was twelve, we moved to a suburb of Antwerp, to enable all family members to reach school and work. I missed the countryside, but we weren't too far away from the parks. On market days in our street, there was a flower stall, from which we bought our flowers for the house. After they had cleared up, there would always be some flowers left behind. I didn't have the heart to watch them being swept up into the rubbish, so I'd collect them before the street was cleaned up and take them home to adorn my bedroom.

God connects with us through nature, let's enjoy His gift to us.

Sabine Muir

The Joys of Packing

In our travelling days, packing to go and return from overseas assignments was a bit different from packing for a holiday. We had to think about setting up a new home... more like moving home than just deciding what to wear. It involved packing boxes with household items (many of which we had duplicated to enable us to continue maintaining a home in the UK) hobby materials to keep us occupied in our leisure time, photos to remind us of home and family, cookery books to help us guide household staff, etc. It involved detailed packing lists for Shippers, Insurance Agents and Customs officials – and all this before you go. And that didn't include the over-weight suitcases that went with us!



Naturally there were laughs and tears. One of the funniest occurred when leaving Sumatra, Indonesia, after working for the Dutch Government. Jean and I had bought a set of bamboo Queen chairs and a matching table for use in our Palembang house (some of you will have seen them in our living



room today), which we decided to send home with our personal effects. I carefully measured up each chair and the table to ensure they would have their own box for packing and the details were passed to a local carpenter for manufacture.

Shortly after Jean's departure, I was at work one morning when

our maid telephoned me with panic in her voice to say "Master, please come home... **the packing case** has arrived". I duly returned to our house to find in the front entrance hall (luckily we had double doors) the largest wooden box imaginable. It measured 8 ft square and 5ft in height! So much for Indonesian language training!

There was nothing I could do but start packing it. I had to use a step-ladder to lift items over the high sides. All three chairs went in, followed by the table, all our household effects and books – all padded by clothing items. To give it a bit more strength I added a thick bamboo pole to keep the sides from collapsing in. When it was full I couldn't budge it an inch. So now what? I needn't have worried; Shipping day arrived and the Agent arrived with a 20 strong team of Indonesian labourers. 5 manned each side of the giant box and they slowly manoeuvred it out of the house, up a ramp to a truck, and it was gone. I heard later that they had driven into the city, used a crane to put the box on a barge, and taken it out to a vessel bound for Rotterdam which was anchored in the Musi River.

Some weeks later, on a wet and miserable autumn morning, now back home in Newcastle upon Tyne, the doorbell rang. Outside on the road was a giant pantechicon lorry with my packing case aboard straight off the Hull ferry. Unfortunately this was Britain.. so it arrived with only the driver, and the loadbed was some 4ft off the ground. We decided to have a cup of tea while we thought things out. Eventually we were able to arrange for our truck to travel a couple of miles up the A1 to a company that had a fork-lift to offload the packing case, after which they could deliver it to the house

with one of their hydraulic lift vehicles on another date. It still had to be unloaded on the front drive by me!

To another occasion....One of the worst packing case incidents happened in Kabul, Afghanistan. On the arrival of our packing cases I was summoned by Customs officers to be present at their opening in their warehouse and to bring my passport. Officers went through everything, entering every item into my passport (taking up 10 pages) and advising me that everything had to be identified and taken with me when I left Afghanistan. Jean's cookery books were confiscated to be checked by the Ministry for Islamic Protection before being returned to us. As a Government Consultant I was allowed later to purchase a fridge duty-free, and had it duly entered into my passport. The rule being that you could sell to another expatriate, providing that the item was entered into their passport before it could be deleted from your own.

On departure I sold the fridge to the British Embassy and received a letter in both languages, Dari and English, confirming the sale. On taking this to Customs on the day before our departure I was asked "Where is the British Embassy's Passport", to which I had no suitable reply. I was therefore banned from leaving the following day and Jean had to return home on her own. Luckily a British Advisor had just joined the Customs Department and through him I was able to meet the Minister for Customs who signed my passport to permit departure. As there was only a weekly flight to London, I came home via Tehran on Iranian Airways a day later. Such is the joy of packing.....but amazingly our boxed household effects were brought from Kabul to the UK by a small Carlisle trucking firm whose British driver informed me that my boxes had survived being poked by swords crossing the Afghan border. Those were the days!

Peter Sowrey

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A Birthday Celebration to be remembered for ever.

Thank you all for making Peter's birthday on Sunday May 15th so special. He was totally surprised at all the food provided, and even a Birthday Cake! After the church party, this was followed by a Birthday lunch at The Falls of Feugh restaurant with our daughter.

Jean Sowrey.

Signing the Register - -

Signing the register at a wedding, the groom had difficulty in making his ball-point pen work. "Put you weight on it," said the vicar. So the groom complied: 'John Smith (12 stone, four pounds)'

Happy Memories!

1999 - overcoming the problems with the St Thomas's Roof

St. Thomas' Roof and Bell Tower Repairs

The following events have been arranged to raise funds for the above:

5th February 1999 - Coffee evening and bring & buy stall - St. Thomas' Church 7.30 p.m.

21st April 1999 - Drama evening in Aboyne Theatre 7.30 p.m.

14th May 1999 - Fashion Parade - Huntly Arms Hotel 7.30 p.m.

12th July 1999 - Teddy Bears' Picnic and Duck Race - Aboyne Castle Grounds

Please kindly note the above dates and support as often as you can. For further information please contact Daphne Laing, 15 Bellwood Road, Aboyne, AB34 5HQ.



FUNDS RAISED

On Wednesday evening 21st April at the Aboyne Theatre we had a very enjoyable evening. This was our Music and Drama Evening by the Upper Donside Drama Group. They very kindly did this to help our church funds. We greatly appreciate their efforts, which resulted in a very pleasant evening for all those who attended, plus approximately £300 towards St. Thomas' church funds.

The Tattler has been going for a long time! To go with Eileen's memories of her **Upper Donside Drama Club**, here is the short write up about it(left), in the June-July 1999 edition, edited by Pauline Whyte.

And to add to the fun, Eileen still has the letter written by Warren Burgess - yes, he was on the go even then! He wrote, among other things: 'It was lovely to see the young people in your group performing together in such a composed way. The other "more mature" ladies in your group equally seemed to be enjoying the experience and this communicated itself well to the audience. I know that some of the favourites were the budgie sketch and your final sketch with the collapsing deckchair.'

And there's more! The redoubtable Daphne was in charge of the fund-raising, full of energy - and of ideas, as seen in the programme above. The star of the programme must be the **Teddy Bears Picnic**! This caused much merriment in the planning, but it was something different, and especially fun for the children. Looking back, it was a huge success. It did of course rain, and most of the time was spent in the tent, although I think some stalwarts did some racing outdoors. But there were children there, and lots of teddy bears, and happy adults congregating together. over some refreshments. It was such fun occasion. And no doubt it made lots of money for the Roof too.

UPPER DONSIDERAMA CLUB'S BIG NIGHT!

(As told by Eileen Davies)

Although our Rural is quite small
We love a challenge most of all
So when we heard of the Drama Cup
We'd have a bash, it's us to up.

We asked our Millie to produce the play
She taught us how to move and say
Without her help and advice so sound
We never would've got off the ground.

She moved us here, she moved us there,
Our faux pas made her tear her hair
She chided, cajoled us 'til the end
Our antics drove her round the bend.



Eileen, May, Nessie, Elsie
Lorna, Gladys

At last our big night came for us
In Inverurie Town Hall - my what a fuss,
Without a prelim we had gone through
Straight to the Finals, what were we to do.

Our dressing room was quite ample
With plenty of space for which we're thankful.
No Number One dressing room with Star on door
All it said was "Gents Cloaks, Room Four"

Millie checking every prop
Gave the command "Curtains Up"
"Go to it girls, go out and win
And do the best you've ever done.



Lorna, Elsie, Eileen
Gladys, May, Nessie

And then the waiting moments came
Listening carefully for our team's name,
Strichen, Second, we were FIRST
Our hearts and heads were fit to burst.

Oh, the joy and jubilation
Our supporters cheer went round the nation
In a flash, with Millie we're up
To collect that coveted DRAMA CUP.

Rev Jean Souter



Jean was a long-standing and well-liked member of St Thomas's for many years. However, when she started her training, she moved to other churches and was seen at St Thomas's only rarely. We were delighted to think she was returning to us as Deacon, trained and with so much to give. But it was not to be.

The following is adapted from the eulogy for Jean at her funeral:

Jean was born in Montrose in 1953, and grew up, with her older sister Elizabeth, in Mannofield, Aberdeen. She left school and got her first job in the payroll department at Culter Mills when she was 16 years old. Her working

Success! Jean with Bishop Bob

life was varied and interesting and after working in an office for many years, she successfully studied while working full time to achieve her Post Graduate Diploma in Personnel Management.

However, having developed an appetite for learning, and along with her interest in helping people, Jean studied massage, aromatherapy, reiki, and reflexology before setting up her own business, Mar holistic Health. Jean had married David in 1984, and had two children, Stuart and Claire. As well as caring for her family, and the challenges of running a small business, Jean continued to practice her therapies for several years, before embarking on her next adventure.

In 2016, Jean graduated from Aberdeen University with a Bachelor of Divinity. She then worked alongside the Rev Isaac Poobalan, Rector of St Andrew's Cathedral, who acted as a mentor and guide in her ministry and study. Jean continued her student life and in 2018 she graduated again from Aberdeen University, this time with a Master's degree in Theology. On 28 September 2019 she was ordained as a Deacon at St Andrew's Cathedral in Aberdeen. Jean was then licensed as Deacon at her home church, St James, where her own parents had married and where she had attended Sunday school.

Sadly, due to Jean's journey with cancer, she was unable to practise fully in her role as Deacon. Her first cancer diagnosis came in January 2019 when it was discovered she had bowel cancer. A successful operation saw Jean recover for a brief period before her cancer returned. As Jean's illness progressed, she was transferred to be a Deacon in Aboyne, to work with Vittoria at St Thomas's, but sadly she was never well enough to take this up.

Jean kept a positive attitude throughout, and only very recently accepted that treatment was no longer effective. She remained with dignity to the end, which was important for Jean, who was a strong and independent woman throughout her life. She will be remembered with joy the person she was.

Congratulations and Commiserations

Baptisms

Kimhan Fennell is to be baptised in St Kentigern's at the end of May
Caeleb Berry is to be baptised in St Kentigern's in July
Theo Mellett is to be baptised in St Thomas' at the beginning of August.

Please pray for these children and their families

Marriages and Wedding Blessings

Emma English and Peter Amos were married in St Kentigern's in April
Catthrina Hancock and William Heynes were married in May
Beth and Will Berry are to have their wedding blessed in St Kentigern's in July

Please pray for these couples at this new stage in their life together.

Funerals

The funeral of Graham Cruickshank took place at Baldarroch Crematorium in April
The funeral of Jean Souter took place at Cromar Parish Church in May

We mourn with their families and pray for them in their grief.

Marcus's Mo-Car story

Marcus Humphrey has just published his first book, written during the lockdown.

Mo-Car is a delightful and well illustrated story of a 1902 Arrol-Johnston double dog cart. The Arrol-Johnstons were the first all British motor cars, and it is a wonderful testament to Scottish engineering that this car is still running 120 years after it was built, ten times longer than most modern cars! What makes this story so special is that the car has remained in the same family since new, and tells the story of the family as well as that of the car.



The book costs £9.99 and can be purchased from Deeside Books in Ballater or from Marcus direct.

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.

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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

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WEB-SITES

St Thomas's Web-site is meantime being transferred and upgraded. The new link will be publicised when it is available, which we hope will be shortly. Meantime if you want to get in

touch, please email:

stthomasaboyne@gmail.com

St Kentigern's Web-site is:

stkentigernsbllater.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 July 19th

CONTACTS :

Treasurer
Secretary
Lay Representative
Vestry Members

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

Sacristan
Assistant Sacristan
Organist

Youth Leader

Anne Richardson

Child Protection Officer Anne Richardson

Chalice Bearers

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

ST. THOMAS'S

Secretary
Treasurer
Lay representative
Vestry Members

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

Organist and Publicity Sheila Maxwell

Child Protection Officer Lesley Thomas

Sacristan and Altar Guild Irene Legge, Daphne Laing, Jo Elson

Chalice Bearers Warren Burgess, Peter Sowrey

Flowers Jill Binns

Rector's Warden Daphne Laing

People's Warden Warren Burgess

(Maintenance Officer)

Patron 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