

# The Deeside Tattler

October and November 2022



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



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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.

### **Dates for the Diary**

2nd October – the Feast of St Francis. Please bring your teddy bears to church  
to help us celebrate  
2nd October – Litter-pick in the grounds of St Thomas'. You are encouraged  
to bring lunch with you.  
9th October, 11.15am, Harvest Communion, St Thomas',  
followed by bring and share lunch.  
16th October, 9.30am, Harvest Communion, St Kentigern's,  
with bring and share lunch at 1pm.  
3rd November, 7.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry at Ravenswood  
6th November, 9.30am, St Kentigern's AGM  
13th November, Remembrance Sunday – see notices for details of services  
20th November, 11.15am, St Thomas' Holy Communion, followed by AGM  
27th November, **Advent Sunday**

**From the Editor:** This edition of the Tattler is being prepared as we live through the momentous occasion of our Queen's death, with all its attendant ceremonies, public and personal, which help us to cope with such a change in our national affairs, and with all the different feelings we experience individually. We have received several pieces that show the enormous range of actions and reactions, from the strictly ceremonial to the seemingly trivial chance meetings, which remain important in the memory years later. We are glad to include these, as our local contributions to the memory of a very remarkable and Christian Queen.

But life does not stop there, and it is a welcome part of our traditions that the crown passes immediately to the next sovereign, King Charles Third. The life of the monarchy goes on - and so does ours. So we also have articles about other things, written before the death of the Queen, and always welcome. This includes the second part of a marathon account from Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey of their fascinating tour of central Europe, including some insights into its history. and this will continue over several editions. We are grateful to them, and to all who have contributed - do keep them coming, it makes for an interesting magazine. **Ed**

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From the Rector,  
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

Autumn is always a time tinged with sadness. A time of mellow fruitfulness. It has within it new beginnings, but also has endings. It is with sadness that I heard of the death of Her Majesty The Queen at Balmoral. A long life which was faithfully lived. We pray for the repose of her soul, and for His Majesty, King Charles, the Queen Consort, and the members of the Royal family as they mourn the loss of their loved one. It feels fitting somehow that she died up here in Deeside, in one of her favourite places, where she was seen not only as monarch but also as a member of this community. Many of us will have our own personal memories of seeing or meeting the Queen, and such memories are important, reflecting the interweaving of personal and public.

How does one react though? I find myself saddened, but not upset. I am saddened by the loss of a faithful servant to this country, by the death of a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother. I am saddened by the thought of the wisdom, strength, and joy which has been lost. I am not sure however, that it would have been kind to pray that she keep going longer. Much as we valued and appreciated her, there was no retirement for her. But I also rejoice. I rejoice that for Her Majesty this was not a long drawn-out lingering death. That she is with her God and King in heaven. That she will be welcomed in with open arms 'Well done, thy good and faithful servant'.

With that, we welcome King Charles III as our new King, after a long apprenticeship. He will not be a male version of the late Queen, but will forge his own way into the role. He will undoubtedly do things which will be criticised, and others which will be praised. He will have the loving support of the Queen Consort, Camilla, and of his family. But



everything he does will be carried out and judged in the public eye, even more so than previously.

Both Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and King Charles have spoken publicly about the faith which sustains them. This faith is expressed in their service to their country. It gives us an example to follow – both in service, but also in being willing and able to speak of the relevancy of a God and a faith in an increasingly secular society. Speaking of God in current times is not an easy task but it is one that both King Charles III, as Defender of the Faith, and we as Christians are called to do. We are called to proclaim a God of love. A God who guides, reassures, strengthens and inspires. A God of peace and mercy.

This is the God in which Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth believed. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. This is God in which King Charles III has professed his faith. May God help and save the King.

Every blessing,  
Vittoria

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**Soul Soup**

Soup for the body, company for the soul. Over the winter months, our midweek communion services will be moving to **11.30**.

The plan is then to have a **soup lunch** available from 12 onwards. This is open to anyone – you do not need to come to the service to join us for lunch, nor do you need to be a member of the church, all are welcome.

Please come and join us, and enjoy some company and some warmth.

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**Midweek Communions**

- 28th September, 10.30am, St Kentigern's
- 18th October, 11.30am, St Thomas', followed by Soul Soup lunch
- 27th October, 11.30am, St Kentigern's, followed by Soul Soup lunch
- 8th November, 11.30am, St Thomas', followed by Soul Soup lunch
- 24th November, 11.30am, St Kentigern's, followed by Soul Soup lunch
- 29th November, 11.30am, St Thomas', followed by Soul Soup lunch
- 1st December, 11.30am, St Kentigern's, followed by Soul Soup lunch

**Guards at the Lying-in-State**

Edward and Simon Humphrey took part in the Lying-in-State, as members of The King's Bodyguard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers. (Hence the longbows)



Edward Humphrey



Simon Humphrey (on the left)

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**Farewell to a Neighbour**

Wanting to pay our respects, we decided to take flowers to the Castle gates at Balmoral. From the moment of queuing for the park and ride the sense of love for the Queen was evident all around us. We spoke with students from Indonesia, tourists from Washington, a policeman from Macduff, a journalist from Northern Ireland and many others during our visit. Everyone wanted to share their appreciation for our Queen's lifetime of service. It seemed as if the Queen had been everyone's favourite neighbour. As her Lord taught us in His royal law: "Love your neighbour". Having done just that, Her Majesty's legacy continues to bring us together. An enduring example, and a legacy that continues to point us to the King she served. May Her Majesty rest in peace and rise in glory.

**Peter Murray**



## For quiet prayer at this time

On the day following the Queen's death, a quiet corner for prayer and the lighting of candles was set up by Vittoria in both churches, with a memorial candle, a basket of individual candles for people to light their own in memory, and a photo of our late Queen.

Quiet corner in St Thomas's, with a few chairs grouped round for those who wished to spend a little time there in the presence of God.



## Memories of the Queen

It is always important to remember all sorts of things about a person who has died, it is part of the healing process. And so it is with the death of the Queen, people have come up with all sorts of memories, including some who have shared their memories here - all so different.

**Sabrina Humphrey** shares her love of dogs with the Queen, at Balmoral in 2006.



**Hugh Dawson** has met the Queen on three occasions, all very different:

1 The Queen came to Braemar when I was the GP there to visit Castle Court the sheltered housing. I was introduced as the Doctor along with other people.



2 In 2012 my wife Doreen was awarded The Maundy Money in York Minster by the Queen. My daughter Joanne and myself accompanied her.

3. Several years ago I was a member of Balmoral Golf Club.

I was playing a round of golf with my Nephew from England when as we approached the 4th hole I became aware of a group of horses and riders approaching us from behind. As they got closer I could see that the leading rider was wearing a Head Scarf! whilst the rest of the group mainly children had Riding Hats on.

I then realised that the leading rider was in fact The Queen.

We stopped playing and as the group passed the Queen said

"Is it safe for us to pass you and carry on".

I said "Yes Ma'am" and the group carried on.

The Queen must have seen how badly we were playing!

And **Daphne Laing** remembers an amazing chance encounter, over 70 years ago:

I lived as a child near a place in Gloucestershire called Slimbridge. It was here where Peter Scott had his place for migrating birds, on land between the river Severn and the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal. To get to the Sanctuary there was a bridge for us to cross the canal, at a place called The Patch, with a small shop at one side of the road and a pub at the other.

A friend and I decided to cycle here for somewhere to go, as there was always some traffic on the canal. This must have been in the school holidays as my friend and I were in our mid-teens. We were informed that Princess Elizabeth had gone to see Peter Scott so naturally we thought we would visit there, and hopefully see her.

We were lucky, as there were quite a few people around as well as the road being narrow, so were standing on the grass verge when the car arrived, and it was crawling.

Princess Elizabeth was dressed in blue, she had a hat that was more like a beret, but it was her eyes that captured me. She did not smile, just a hint. If the car window had been open I could have touched her. It was just a fleeting moment, but I still remember her eyes were such a striking blue.

**Daphne**



## An Award from our Queen



Words cannot express the sorrow I feel about the loss of our dear Queen and can only send my deepest sympathy to King Charles III and all his family at this very sad time.

I can remember a very special day when I first met Her Royal Highness, Queen Elizabeth II in Buckingham Palace, but before that in the 1990's my husband and I were invited to attend a

Royal Garden Party at Holyrood House in Edinburgh, and that was a most enjoyable occasion on a brilliant sunny day, where we saw our Queen and members of the Royal family.

However, towards the end of 2004 a letter popped through the door requesting me to reply to it and accept an award, an MBE from the Queen for services to the local community. Well, I was flabbergasted but highly delighted, so I accepted graciously. I had to keep it quiet until the 2005 Queen's Honour list was published, and what excitement and celebrations followed.

On the 21st March, off I flew to Heathrow with my husband and our two daughters, where my dear cousin met us and took us to his home to prepare for the Investiture the next day in London. My cousin had hired a minibus for us all, his wife and sister as well and then the long journey to Buckingham Palace started. What a lot of traffic, but we made it by the skin of our teeth.

My cousins had to stay outside. Barrie, Pam and Gill were ushered into the ballroom, but I was taken through corridors and instructed as to the procedure that would take place. The recipients could chat to one another before we were taken through to await our turn, listening carefully for our name when we were escorted to meet our Queen. Having been on stage before, I was very nervous, but for once I was not worried about what the audience thought, just Her Majesty. She was so lovely, speaking about Glenkindie, shook my hand and I almost forgot to curtsy even though I did remember to call her Ma'am.

We all met up outside for the official photographs then off we went to Simpsons for a superb lunch which my cousin had arranged beforehand. What a truly remarkable day it was, and I felt so honoured to be given my MBE by Her Majesty. God bless her soul.

**Eileen A. Davies MBE**



## And finally - The Service of Committal for Her Majesty The Queen St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.



After two weeks of the most amazing tributes to our wonderful Queen Elizabeth, the pageantry, the flowers, the outpouring of grief and hope, it is time to take stock of what happened to our own family.

Firstly we were totally taken aback to be invited to pay our respects to Her Majesty in the Ballroom at Balmoral, an emotional but lovely gesture as it was so peaceful and we had time to stop and say a prayer. Secondly our two sons, Edward and Simon, who are members of the

Queen's (now King's) Bodyguard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers, were detailed to stand guard at her coffin in St. Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh at the Lying at Rest. They both did a 6 hour shift, standing for 20 minutes every hour; what an honour and how proud of them we are.

So that was that and little did we know that a letter was on its way inviting us to the Service of Committal at St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. We could hardly believe it and had little time to make the arrangements, where to stay and how to get there. I rang my cousin Ian Cadell who luckily lives just outside Windsor and he and his wife Theresa were very kind and delighted to have us to stay. Ian actually acted as our driver as the whole of Windsor was closed to traffic, and he knew how to get us to the Windsor Farm Shop from where guests were to be bussed to the Chapel through the Frogmore Estate.

Monday was cold but fair, and after watching the State Funeral, so beautifully organised and with sublime pageantry, we changed into our funeral clothes and set off for the Farm Shop. On arrival there the first people we saw were Martin and Catriona Leslie. Martin was a past Factor at Balmoral, and great friends. We all climbed into buses and were driven the short distance to the Chapel, on the way seeing all the flowers divested of their plastic wrappings and laid out on the ground, all the way up the Long Walk and then on the grass around the Chapel. It was little things like that which got me! Into the Chapel and shown our seats, we were so lucky to have seats at the front, so had a wonderful view of everyone arriving. I sat next to Jackie Stewart who was a guinea a minute, and we spent two hours talking about everything. He also knows everyone and adored The Queen. It was a most beautiful service and felt quite intimate with only 800 attending! The music was divine while we were waiting, and then the Procession started, so we were up and down like yo-yos! At 4pm the Service started and it was good to hear Ken MacKenzie reading one of the prayers, quite beautifully. The Lone Piper playing the Lament as the coffin was lowered into the vault reduced me to tears as he walked away into the distance, so moving. It was the most beautiful service and something we will never forget.

As a postscript when we were travelling north on Tuesday we sat next to a lovely couple, she is a Police Constable and had been outside the Palace on duty on the day of the funeral representing the Middlesbrough force. She was thrilled to meet people who had known The Queen.

**Sabrina Humphrey**

## Celebrities and Famous (or infamous) People we have met

It was inevitable that we should come close to, or even sometimes be introduced to, celebrities during my international career.



It all started when Jean joined me on a voyage during my seagoing days (Merchant Navy). A visit to a film studio in Los Angeles brought us both into close contact with Shirley McLaine and Jack Lemmon, being directed by Billy Wilder in a small scene from “Irma La Douce”. This was followed a few weeks later in Hong Kong by a personal introduction to the Lord Mayor of Newcastle upon Tyne (Jean’s home town) whose visit to the colony and the Northumberland & Durham Association Cocktail party coincided with our evening out at the Peninsular Hotel to fulfil a family memory.

*Shirley McLaine* A few years later whilst working in Zambia, I was given the side job of designing a stand for the Electricity Corporation, and ended up being introduced to President Kuanda when he opened the exhibition.

This was followed by a visit to Buckingham Palace, accompanied by my father and brother, to see my mother receive an MBE from Her Majesty, the Queen. I can still picture the Throne Room, which we were not allowed to photograph.

A couple of years passed and now working in Malawi, Jean and I were invited to the opening of a new university facility by President Dr Banda. I remember the long wait in the hot sun and that his speech had to be translated into the local Bantu language, which he did not speak.

Then I had another real introduction. I shook hands with Col.Gaddafi! On this occasion I was dragged from the back of a desert shop at Marsa el Briga by my Libyan counterpart ,who wanted me to meet someone special. Gaddafi had stopped with his military entourage for a refreshing drink en route between Tripoli and Benghazi.

On another few years to the Philippines, where Jean and I attended several project functions in the company of Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos, the then President and his wife.



Then came an assignment to Lesotho for the UK Government, where I was Training Manager for the Lesotho Highlands Development Authority. In this role Jean and I were invited to another building opening ceremony attended by the King and Queen of Lesotho, and at the end the Queen came over to talk to Jean in her wheelchair. This resulted in her being invited to the Palace for coffee with the Queen, and when that was over her Lady-in-Waiting informed Jean that the Queen would like to come to our house for dinner. That really was a “Royal Occasion” which we shall forever cherish.

The last overseas “Celebrity” contact was in Mozambique when we attended a church service conducted by Archbishop Tutu.



Things quietened down a bit when we retired, but before we came North we were invited to the Commonwealth Service at Westminster Abbey in the presence of The Queen and Prince Phillip after the ceding of Hong Kong, through our voluntary work with Corona Worldwide. And we were introduced to the Princess Royal at a Foreign Office reception through my voluntary work with BESO (British Executive Services Overseas).

Since coming to Royal Deeside in 2000, Jean has shaken hands with Prince Charles at the opening of the Ballater Sports ground and I met the Princess Royal again at the opening of the Finzean Community Centre. We’ve both been lucky to have attended three Royal Garden Parties..two at Holyrood Palace and one at Balmoral Castle.

It’s been quite a life, but as I completed this article we heard the news of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Our thoughts now are with the Royal Family and our Nation at this time of mourning. Our best wishes go to King Charles III

**Peter Sowrey**



*Jean with the Queen of Lesotho and her Lady-in-Waiting*

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## News from Aboyne-Dinnet

The Guild are planning two events this autumn:

**Thursday 6th October**, we are having an Afternoon Tea 2:30 to 4:30. Our special guest is Frank Ribbons. Visitors are welcome. Donations accepted.

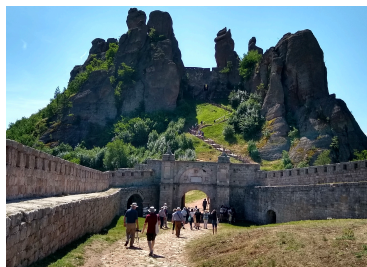
**Thursday 3rd November** we have a Guild Evening starting at 7pm. Our speaker is John Henderson and his topic is 'Rivers of Scotland'

Visitors are welcome, entry by donation.



## A Cruise across Central Europe - part 2

After the special tea party and beautiful cake to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee, our ship moved on to Vidin, where next morning we were taken by coach to Belogradchik, a little village famous for its rock formations and magnificent Roman fortress with wonderful views all round. Vidin is in a very poor part of Bulgaria which shows in the hideous Communist buildings, then round the corner you see a lovely house and realise what it looked like before the Communists took power in 1944. Later in the afternoon we were taken to the town's Concert Hall, where we were treated to a private concert of works by Bulgarian composers such as Cherkin by the Vidin Philharmonic Orchestra. They were very good especially the young soloist who played the violin quite beautifully,



*Roman fort at Belogradchik*



*Iron Gates*



*Golubac Castle*

she was only 19 and so composed.

Early next morning we began our journey through the Iron Gates, going through both the Djerdap Locks which lifted us into the Kazan Gorges, with its spectacular scenery culminating in the splendid ruins of Golubac Castle, held by the Turks for 260 years.



*Church of St.Sava, Belgrade*

The following day we arrived in Belgrade, Serbia's capital, which is a fascinating city, many lovely houses but a lot of run down places. We had a very good guide, who spoke brilliant English and was very funny with it. Serbia is such a complicated story, the guide says she speaks 5 languages all spoken within Serbia, and she has 5 passports! We had a lovely walk up to Kalemegdan Fortress overlooking the two rivers, Danube and Suva, then after a drive round the city we visited the glorious church of St. Sava, the largest Orthodox church in the world, built on land donated by a Scot called McKenzie. Richard asked our guide if Serbia supported Ukraine against Russia; her reply was "Absolutely not" and when asked why, replied "Russia never bombed us!" In fact Putin sent 10 lorry loads of gold to Belgrade to pay for the new church.

We also visited Tito's tomb, which is really well done, all light and white marble, with beautiful gardens all round, yes, more roses, and an interesting visitor centre. This was the last of the Eastern Orthodox countries on our trip, and also the last using cyrillic script. In the afternoon and overnight our ship then sailed on to Mohacs in Hungary, where we had all our passports checked before we could enter the EU Schengen Zone. On arrival there it was just like a summer's day in Scotland, cold and wet!

After a morning's wine tasting and a lunch of excellent goulash, we moved on to Pecs, a beautiful university town. Hungary is staunchly Roman Catholic, and we started our visit with a tour of St.Peter's Cathedral which was stunning with lovely frescoes, and we were lucky to be given an organ recital which was magnificent.. We then had a guided tour of the old city which was most impressive, so many beautiful buildings and everything spotlessly clean, then our guide left us to wander around after recommending several ice cream shops!

Overnight we sailed on to Budapest where we found ourselves amongst so many river boats like ours but bigger and more modern; gone are the peaceful days of the Lower Danube where we were the only cruise ship in sight! Budapest is an extremely attractive city

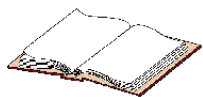


*Budapest by night*

and would be perfect if there were no tourists! A lot of restoration work is being done as it all has to be ready for May next year when it is the anniversary of the end of Communism. We did a city tour first by coach on the Pest side, driving along Andrassy Street which is most attractive as it is UNESCO protected, then into Heroes Square which is enormous and most impressive. We then drove over the Elisabeth Bridge to Buda, where we had a walking tour through this lovely area on our way to the Matthias Church which has the most amazing roof tiles which look just like a tapestry, so beautiful. The inside of the church is unusual in that the pillars resemble patterns that are normally found in mosques. One of the passengers who had lunch with us today tested positive for Covid, so now we have to wear masks again having not worn them for a week! Fortunately it was an isolated case, and none of the passengers or crew tested positive for the remainder of the cruise. In the evening we had a spectacular sail past the beautifully floodlit Parliament Buildings .

Overnight we were held up by a very strong current so we were late into Bratislava having negotiated the largest lock on the Danube. After a lecture on the Empress Maria Theresa we did a magical walking tour of the city. The old city is really lovely, and the Slovaks are determined to reconstruct all the historic buildings destroyed under the Communist regime. The country is also staunchly Roman Catholic and their churches are beautifully maintained. Hundreds of children had gathered in the main square in their national costume marching and singing their way round the old city. We then went on to the Moyzes Palace for a concert by a string quartet of music by Mozart and Dvorak, which was excellent.

**Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey**



## Readings for October and November 2022

2nd October Trinity 16 St Francis	Phil 3:8-9 Luke 9:57-62	Margaret Jaffray	Warren and Sue Burgess
Harvest Readings	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19		
9th October Trinity 17	2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19	Stanley Ewen	Rider Family (Harvest)
16th October Trinity 18	Genesis 32:22-31 2 Timothy 3:14- 4:5 Luke 18:1-8	Marcus Humphrey (Harvest)	Isabel Wilson
23rd October Trinity 19	Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14	Sabine Muir	Carol Simmons
30th October Trinity 20	Isaiah 1:10-18 2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12 Luke 19:1-10	Susan Smith	Meg White
6th November Trinity 21	Job 19:23-27a 2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38	Sabrina Humphrey	Sue Burgess
13th November Remembrance Sunday		Remembrance Service	Service in Victory Hall
20th November Trinity 23	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43	Hilary Mutch	Anne Harper
27th November ADVENT SUNDAY	Isaiah 2:1-5 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44	Anne Richardson	Rider Family

### 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.**

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### The Chapel of St Ninian, Mar Lodge, Braemar

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

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#### **Based on a prayer of St Francis of Assisi**

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love  
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You

Oh Master, grant that I may never seek  
So much to be consoled as to console  
To be understood as to understand  
To be loved as to love with all my soul

Make me a channel of Your peace  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope  
Where there is darkness, only light  
And where there's sadness, ever joy

Make me a channel of Your peace  
It is pardoning that we are pardoned  
In giving to all men that we receive  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life

## 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:

**2nd October:** Celebrating St Francis

**6th November:** Zacchaeus



## From the Bible, for the young and not so young



### King Solomon - an ancient story of Monarchy

You may have heard of 'the wisdom of Solomon'. This comes from the story of King Solomon, which is told in the first book of Kings in the Old Testament, all about what happened many years before Jesus was born.

His father was King David, who was King of Israel for forty years, and is one of the important people in the Bible. And David knew he was dying, and that Solomon would be King after him. So he gave him a lot of advice about following the Lord God, and walking in His ways, and this way he would do well as King. This was a time of great upheaval of course, with a new King after so many years - rather like the way things have been for us with the death of Queen Elizabeth, it is the end of one way of life, and the start of something new, we don't quite know what.

Solomon was anxious to do well. And one night he had a dream, when the Lord God appeared to him, and told him he would give him whatever he asked for. Solomon had plenty of things, but was not sure how well he was going to do as King. He said to the Lord that his father David had been treated well, and so he had lived a good and upright life, as well as having a son to follow him as king. But he, Solomon, was 'but a little child' and didn't know how to go about being a good king for such a large number of people. So he asked God to give him 'an understanding heart,' in dealing with all these people.

He woke up and realised it was a dream, but he thought about it, and it was good. So he went to offer peace offerings, as they did in those days, and also he made a feast for all his servants. A good start!

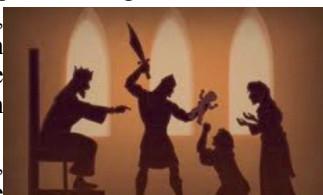
So the first account of the way he dealt with people was when two women came to him. They were prostitutes, living together in the same house, and they had both had babies only 3 days apart. Unfortunately one of the babies died, and the mother was of course really upset. But it was too much for her to bear, and during the night she went across to the other mother and took her child from her, saying it was hers. There followed an argument, which led to them coming to the King to decide.

Right, he said, listen to this. One says her son is living, the other woman's is dead, while the second woman says that hers is living and the other one is dead. The simplest thing is to cut the baby in two, and they can have half each.

But the real mother of the child was deeply attached, and could not bear to see her child killed, so she immediately said - no, let the other woman have him, do not kill him. The other woman was quite happy that neither of them would have him.

King Solomon then showed his enormous wisdom, he looked at the one who thought this was fair, and the other who could not bear to see her child harmed, and would rather give him up than see him killed. Yes, this is the mother, he said, give the child to her, and don't think of killing him.

The story of this judgement travelled all over Israel, and the people respected King Solomon, seeing that the wisdom of God was with him. And he continued to reign for about forty years.



## In the Choir

In the choir

The pews are decorated  
With carved beasts  
Creations of imagination

If you touch them  
Look with your hands  
It is almost as though  
You reach backwards  
Through time  
And meet with the one  
Who carved these things

You can breathe in the wood  
Feel the buzz of energy  
As the work becomes worship  
Homage to God

There is pride there  
And courage  
Imagination  
And love  
Poured into the building  
Poured into God

*Vittoria Hancock*

## St Thomas's Choir

St Thomas's choir is back in action at last, and enjoying singing together again. But it has not been altogether easy. Because of the Covid lockdown and subsequent restrictions, we were not able to sing as a choir for nearly two years, and when we started again it was quite nervously, the Virus had not gone away, and none of us wanted to catch it, or pass it on to others. This has gradually eased, but we still have most of our choir practices in church, where there is room to spread out, and air circulating more than it would in my lounge.

Another serious problem is that we have lost Andy and Geoff, two of the basses who kept such a good bass line for us over the years. We now have only two men, a bass and a tenor, and it is difficult to sing alone in a choir.

In spite of all this, our small choir is producing a lovely sound, especially with the anthems, which continue during Communion. We have had to keep to simpler ones, but still manage several of our favourites, like Attwood's 'Come, Holy Ghost,' and John Goss's 'O Taste and See,' and 'My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord.' And this will continue.

We do, however, badly need more choir members, of all parts, but especially tenors and basses. Do have a think about it, and offer yourself, or suggest someone else. It is very rewarding, and lovely to sing together.

**Sheila Maxwell**

## Ballater Victoria Week

Ballater Victoria Week was a bit more special this year, as we also celebrated the Platinum Jubilee of our wonderful Queen, now sadly deceased. The church was open to visitors during the week, which ran from Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> August till Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>.

We planted a tree for the Jubilee on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, to which there was a good turnout of people, who also came in for a cup of tea. Douglas Mutch assisted Vittoria in planting the tree.



Maggie Jaffray did some beautiful floral displays around the church, as well as one in the shape of a crown, which was much admired by visitors and the congregation alike.

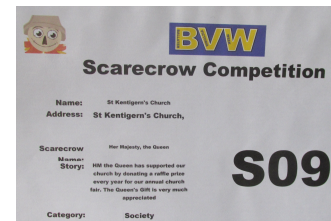


The Crown display



St Kentigern's also took part in the annual scarecrow competition, themed around the Jubilee. It was a joint effort between Sabine, Barbara Simpson, who made the main body, and Maggie Jaffray, who lent us the lovely outfit, wig, and hat. Paddington, who lives in the church hall, was happy to take part and join in the proceedings, pleased to recall his earlier visit for afternoon tea with the Queen.

One young visitor, Kara Ramsay, popped in with her mother for a cup of tea during our Tea and Tree event, and was delighted to be pictured with our scarecrow Queen.



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We entered our **White Ducks of Peace** into the Duck Race again. No winners this year, but there's always next year to look out for.

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## Autumn Fayre postponed

Due to Her Majesty's passing, our annual church Fayre, which was to take place on September 10<sup>th</sup>, had to be postponed. Because of the unprecedented circumstances, we've had permission from Aberdeenshire Council to draw the Queen's Gift raffle at the later date of **Saturday December 10<sup>th</sup>**

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## What they say

When my younger brother was very young, he always walked up to the church altar with my mother when she took Holy Communion. On every occasion, he tugged at her arm and asked, "What does the priest say when he gives you the bread?" Mum would always lean over and whisper something in his ear. Imagine his shock many years later when he learned that the priest doesn't say, "Be quiet until you get to your seat."



## Season of Creation, 2022

The Season of Creation runs yearly from 1st September until 4th October, which is the day we celebrate St Francis of Assisi. It is intended as a time of grace that the Church, in ecumenical dialogue, offers to humanity to renew its relationship with the Creator and with creation, through celebration, conversion and commitment together.



### Listen to the Voice of creation SEASON OF CREATION 2022

The burning bush is the Symbol for the Season of Creation 2022. Today, the prevalence of unnatural fires are a sign of the devastating effects that climate change has on the most vulnerable of our planet. Human greed, desertification and land misuse lead to the disintegration of ecosystems, the destruction of habitats, and the loss of livelihoods and species at an alarming rate. Creation cries out as forests crackle, animals flee, and people are forced to migrate due to the fires of injustice that we have caused.

On the contrary, the fire that called to Moses as he tended the flock on Mt. Horeb did not consume or destroy the bush. This was a flame of the Spirit that revealed God's life sustaining presence. This holy fire affirmed that God heard the cries of all who suffered, and promised to be with us as we followed faithfully to deliverance from injustice. During the Season of Creation, this symbol calls us to listen to the voice of creation, and faithfully respond through worship, repentance and action.

### Kingfisher Blue

Amongst the reeds  
Is a flash  
A glimpse of blue and gold  
A kingfisher

Wings pumping hard  
As it hovers  
Poised to aim and strike  
To catch fish

Such bright colours  
Such a small bird  
One seems almost  
To contradict the other

Vibrant and alive  
Swift and fleet of wing  
Poised in time  
A picture of life.

Vittoria Hancock

## The Testimonies of an Iranian couple

*My sister in Gateshead has sent the written testimonies of an Iranian couple who were confirmed locally. They were written willingly, in English which is not of course their first language. With their permission, we are reproducing extracts from them:*



**Arsaian:** I was born into a society where all people, out of habit, believe in one religion. When I was a university student, my research on that religion began, and the truth became clear to me. It was created to copy Christianity, but unfortunately with the addition of their own demands, the bow is used to dominate the people and their conquests.

My soul was no longer at peace until I attended the house church (of Christianity). It was the most beautiful feeling in the world, the feeling of peace!

In my previous religion,, the fear of hell was always with people until the moment of death, but from the time I gave my heart to Christ, I knew he was crucified so the sins of all people would be forgiven. Shortly afterwards,, my fear of doing something forbidden became a reality, and I was prosecuted by the police of Iran. I left my home, car, job, family, memories and escaped and left Iran illegally.

Let me tell you about my experience; I understood the meaning of miracles several times during this difficult journey. Faith in Jesus Christ saved me from death. Like the day when I had the longest day of my life and we were at sea by boat and I saw 20 metres of waves and I was getting ready to drown and I said a sentence in myself: I look forward to God because I trust in God's love and His promises (Psalm 2:5) And today I am with all of you.

I want to say something about my life today, I am like a bankrupt businessman. I do not have the materialism, prestige and personality of the past, but I can freely and without any fear go to any church and pray. I have faith in Jesus Christ in my heart, and with this belief, I am fine and happy, because he says: Be constantly happy in God, I say be happy again. (Philippians 4:4)

**Mahea:** Lose everything and find peace. I found out my husband went to a church meeting. In the beginning, fear came to me ..... After a few months Arsaian, every night before we went to sleep, he read the Bible and shared stories about Jesus. He suggested that I read the Bible and become a believer. A few days later, when Arsaian shared with me the good news of Jesus, I listened carefully and received the message of salvation from him. I started to watch some TV shows - I enjoyed watching them praying, singing and preaching. Finally I went to home church with Arsaian. When I went there they read one Bible verse which touched my heart: 'The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1) I repented of my sin and put my life in the hands of God and Jesus and became a Christian.

The problem came into our life. We left our job, home and crossed the border illegally. During this process when we faced a lot of difficulties one Bible verse came to my mind: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet And a light unto my path.) (Psalm 119:105)

During this cold journey I felt our God next to me whenever I need God to be there this encourages me to continue.

Now hear I want to confess in front of all of you in this Holy place, my second family, I want to say every day encourages a love of Jesus to grow in my heart and soul. I will not exchange the feeling of happiness and peace I have these days with anything.

## The Lonach Gathering

We have just celebrated the 181st Gathering of the Lonach Highland and Friendly society on a glorious sunny day with more than 10,000 people packing out the field at Bellabeg where families and friends enjoyed themselves after the long absence of the games due to the covid pandemic and we were very proud of our grand daughter, .Lauren Johnston , who has now been enrolled as the new secretary of the Lonach Highland and Friendly Society and this was her first Lonach on duty.



It set me thinking of Lonachs long ago, in fact, one in particular in 1946 when the 105th one took place after the Second World War ended. There were no local highland dancers to take part so Fred McGregor, who ran the Bellabeg shop, decided to teach some of us and my oldest sister, Sheila, Jessie Philip from Bellabeg, Lorna Clarke from Inverernan and myself were put through our paces and were taught the Highland Fling, Sword dance and Highland reel. We met every week in a room above the shop to practise, now Fred McGregor was a piper, but he usually did mouth music. The first time we heard that “ hi hum to hiddy hum” it took us all our time not to burst out laughing, but as we progressed the pipes came out for us. Our parents managed to get us kitted out with kilts, handed down or borrowed, white blouses, tartan ties, white socks and black gym shoes. Jessie was the only one to have dancing pumps that had belonged to her older sister.



*The Candacraig Game Keepers*



*Self and cousin Janet*

The day dawned at last and we were up early so went round to the Gun Room where the Wallace men were getting help to get their plaids on properly. We then marched out beside them to the front gates to await the arrival of the Lonach Marchers complete with their pipes and drums. The Wallace men joined in and all marched back to the front of Candacraig House where they were given a dram from the Wallace family. Off they set again to call at Tornashean House, the Bellabeg House and the Lonach Hall for their lunch before returning to the Games field. We couldn't wait to get there and have a go on the swing boats and spend our pennies on slices of melon. Now we had to dance after all the professionals like Bobby Watson and Betty Jessiman had finished, well here we go then, the four of us, the winning flags being red, white, blue and yellow and guess who got the yellow one each time, ME, I was

so pleased because yellow is my favourite colour. It didn't dawn on me that I was last each time.

I could not find any photos of that Lonach, but found one of me about a few year later outside the Gun room with my younger cousin Janet. Also one of the Candacraig Game Keepers, .they used to wear green kilts for the shooting but on Lonach Day on went the red Wallace tartan.

Later on when I was private secretary to A.L.P.F. Wallace I was asked to help out in the Secretary's tent on Lonach Day, was given my lunch and a Free Ball ticket, wow that was fun. In those days Lonach was held on a Friday and the Ball was the same evening.

Years later after our girls could dance they competed at Lonach, Gill went on the dancing circuit and won lots of medals, but Pam just competed at Lonach and in 1981 won the Rosebowl, for under 16s. So here is her photo.



**The James Yeat's Trophy, for Local Dancing, under 16 years**  
Winner — Miss PAMELA DAVIES

Unfortunately she didn't have her kilt on.

This is the advert we used to have in the Lonach programme each year. But when we started the Instore Bakery we used to have a stall on the field selling hot pies and other eatables, with tea and coffee. It was a lot of work but great fun. Happy days.

**Eileen Davies**

**Barrie E. Davies**  
General Merchant

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Through the valley of the Don  
**Glenkindie Shop** you'll come upon;  
Do stop and have a look around  
You'll be surprised what can be  
found;

Novelties, ice-cream and fizzy pop,  
Eggs, butter and honey inside **OUR**  
shop.

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**PHONE: 286**

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## Mystery music

A friend of mine, a professional organist, was asked to play for a wedding. Unfamiliar with the church's organ, she went to the sanctuary to practise. Curious about a small keyboard that slid out from under the two regular keyboards, she tapped out a couple of bars of a simple tune but heard nothing. Then she played a few more notes, but still no organ music.

Just then a man came running into the church, shouting, "Who's playing 'Three Blind Mice' on the church-steeple bells?" She had been operating the carillon.



## Baptism of Theo Mellet

Theo Dirk Mellet was christened on 7th August 2022 at St Thomas' Church Aboyne. This was a special day for many reasons – Theo's grandparents Dirk and Tersia Mellet from South Africa visited Scotland for the first time since COVID and it was such a happy time to have all of our family together again.

Theo's Granny, Jo Elson, hosted a wonderful Christening lunch (yet again) at Khaya with family and friends who came from afar including Theo's Auntie Holly from Orkney.

Vittoria delivered a very meaningful service and Theo is lucky to have acquired two wonderful Godparents, Katie McHugh from Drymen and Donatella Peretti from Carrick Castle. In addition to this, the very special John Lanigan became honorary God Father to Theo and his two brothers Christiaan and Luka.

Our friends and family have been rocks to us throughout the difficult time of COVID and losing Theo's Grandpa David Elson. Lara and Tilley were greatly missed due to illness but we were grateful to spend time with them later on in the day. Thank you to Vittoria, Sheila and Sue for delivering such a special Baptism service and to Lesley and Alan Thomas for making two fabulous car themed cakes which were enjoyed by everyone present. Theo, your parents are very proud of you.

**Hannah and Darius Mellet**

**Baptism of Alistair Rawson,  
great grandchild of Mary Fennell**



**And of Aurora Deakin  
grandchild of Pearl Reid**



## Personnel

### Baptisms

Alistair Rawson was baptised in August in St Kentigern's

Theo Mellett was baptised in August in St Thomas'

Aurora Deakin was baptised in September in St Thomas'

*Please pray for these children and their families*

### Thank you

Irene Legge has left Aboyne to be near her family in Banchory. She has been our Sacristan for many years, a task she carried out willingly and efficiently. She will be much missed for that, and for her friendship as a fellow member of St Thomas's. We are grateful for all she has done for us, and we wish her well in her new life. We hope to see her back here from time to time.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Sabine Muir and Barbara Simpson for the St Kentigern's Scarecrow, which won first place in the Scarecrow Competition. The Queen and Paddington attracted lots of attention as they sat and ate their afternoon tea!

### Web-site - Link <http://www.stthomasaboyne.org>

St Thomas's web-site has at last been finished, and gone out live to the public. It is based on the web-site set up by Fiona Sawyer, many years ago, hosted by Google, but has been brought up-to-date, modernised, and is now being hosted by Gordon McKnight, of the locally based Deeside Computers. The site has been laid out expertly by Letty Scrimgeour, of Keystroke Virtual Secretary Services Ltd, also locally based. She was given the text we wanted, and a lot of photos mostly from the last web-site, and she has put it together to make quite a striking site. She willingly made adjustments as we went along, and remains available for any further help and advice. We are very grateful for her meticulous work.

One of the aims is to keep people informed with up-to-date information, and this will be developed as we go along. The Calendar is of particular importance, and fortunately not too difficult to work!

There is a great deal of backcourt and general information about St Thomas's, which will hopefully be useful to people both belonging to St Thomas's, and visiting to find out about us.

In addition there is a section of Archives, which can be built upon. What is there now has been transferred from the original web-site, comprising information about the History of St Thomas's written by Jane Kruuk for our Centenary, and two series of articles, on local saints, and on Upper Deeside Churches, well researched by Hugh Cochran some years ago, and worth holding on to.

It is intended as a living document that will be read by anyone interested, kept up-to-date, and added to where appropriate. If anyone wants anything included, they can speak to any member of St Thomas's Vestry, or get in touch through the church email, [stthomasaboyne@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasaboyne@gmail.com)

**Sheila Maxwell**

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**Pastoral Cards  
for the sick or bereaved**

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

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

St Kentigern's Web-site is:  
[stkentigernsballater.aodiocese.org.uk](http://stkentigernsballater.aodiocese.org.uk)

The next Edition is starting now.  
Please give or send all contributions  
to the Editor,  
or to Anne Richardson at Ballater,  
by November 15th

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Michael Adie, John Lovie

Lay Reader, Treasurer, Organist  
Flowers  
Child Protection Officer