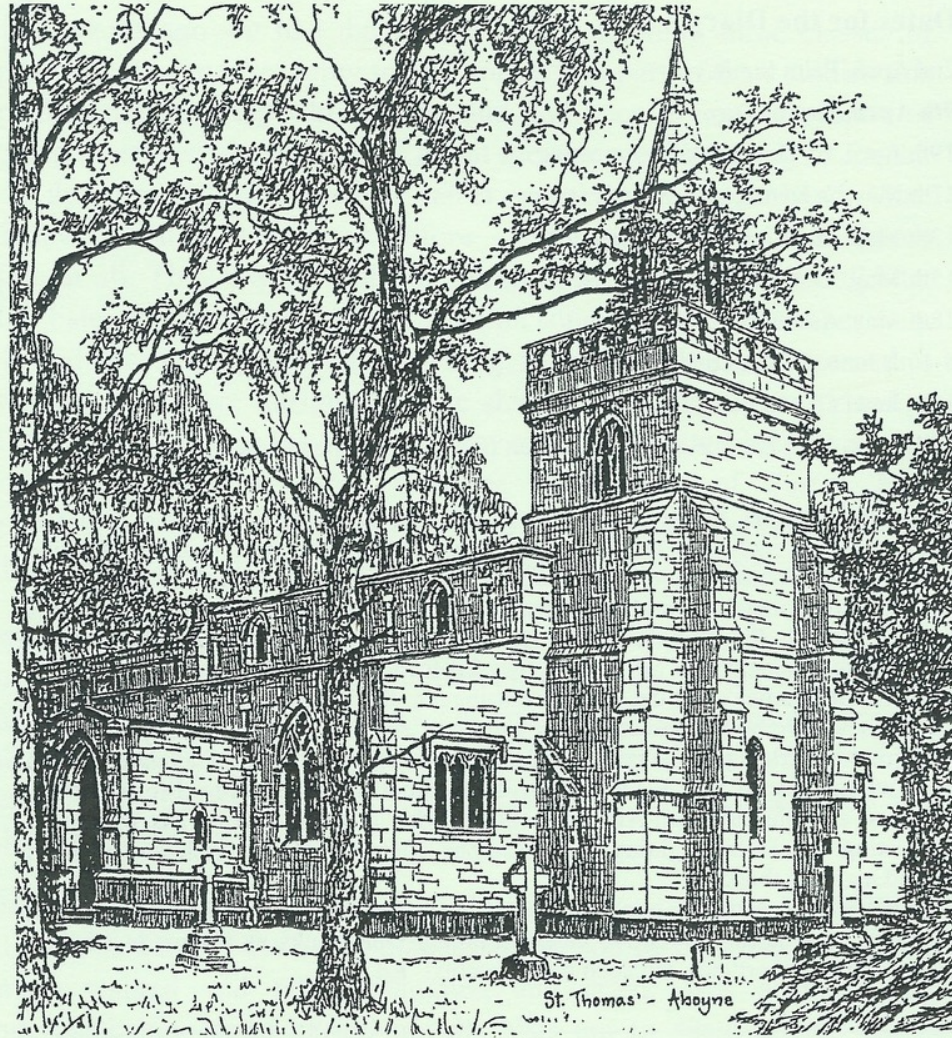


The Deeside Tattler

April and May 2023



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



Rector: Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock
The Rectory, 7 Invercauld Road, Ballater, AB35 5RP
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Lay Reader: Hugh Dawson, Tel. No 013398 87054

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

Dates for the Diary

2nd April, Palm Sunday

9th April, Easter Day

19th April, St Thomas' Vestry meeting

11th May, St Kentigern's Vestry meeting

13th May, Dee-Don Group meeting

15th May, Joint Vestry meeting, St Thomas'

18th May, Ascension Day services

8-10th June, General Synod, Edinburgh

11th June, Choral Evensong, St Thomas'

25th June, Joint Service at Rhu-na-haven followed by Open Garden

From the Editor: Easter is almost upon us, and this edition of the Tattler is reflecting this, including our Rector's Letter, and a thoughtful Easter Reflection from Andrew Wilson. But being Lent, we also turn our thoughts to others less fortunate than ourselves, and in particular we have the Lent Appeal. This year it is for the Scottish Air Ambulance service, so necessary around these parts, and yet with no government aid. So we are pleased to do what little we can to help. In addition, St Thomas's has decided to contribute to the Ripple Fund, formerly Send a Cow. They have now broadened their sphere of activity, but still aiming to give to some of the world's poorest people the means to make their own living, and enhance their whole way of life. Peter Sowrey spent much of his working life in Africa, trying to educate and train Africans with just this in mind, and he has written an interesting article highlighting the enormous contrast between rich and poor. It should make us think!

As well as the news of our churches to keep us informed, we have the usual selection of articles, instructive or entertaining. Our thanks as always to all who have contributed articles. Do keep them coming! Ed

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

A few weeks ago we had the pleasure of welcoming three classes of pupils from Aboyne Academy to St Thomas'. As part of their studies this term they are studying Christianity, and had been given the project of creating their own documentaries about the story and meaning of Easter. So in they trooped, cameras – or rather – mobile phones in hand. Most had never been in the church before – some hadn't been in a church before at all. They explored all the nooks and crannies of the building, got to listen to and play the organ, tried on some of my clergy robes (alb, stole and chasuble), practised 'preaching' from the pulpit, and seemed to have fun. They were intrigued by the ship at the back, and surprised at the weight of the lid to the font. But they also had to interview me as part of their documentary. What was the significance of Easter, how important was it, what was the story, and how did we celebrate it? What is different about Christianity in comparison with other faiths?

They only wanted short answers, something which is often harder to give than a long one. And they are important questions for us to consider. What does Easter mean for you? For me, Easter is the centre around which the rest of Christianity rotates. Without Easter there would have been no Christianity. Without Easter, Christmas and Pentecost do not make sense.

The central point of our faith – and the difference between Christianity and other faiths – is the belief that Jesus, the son of God, was born as a human, walked and talked, laughed and cried. Was accused and condemned of a crime he did not do. Was put to death on the cross, despite being innocent of all sin. And in doing so died for all we have done wrong. On the third day he rose again into the new life of the resurrection.

This is the faith we profess, Sunday by Sunday, week by week. The difference between us and other faiths is that our salvation does not depend on how we act, or what we say or do. We do not have to earn our way into heaven. We do not have to observe strict rules, or worship in a certain ways. Christianity is not a tick-box exercise. Our salvation is assured if we acknowledge and accept the action of Jesus in dying for us on a cross; if we respond to that act of love with love, for God, for neighbour, for self. Through that comes life eternal.

This winter seems to have been long and hard. We are theoretically into spring now, but the snow falling outside my window seems to belie that fact. I am tired of digging snow. Of either having to wrap the car up or defrost it in the mornings. Of having to wear hat, gloves and scarves. It isn't just the weather. The news is not promising, with strikes and rumours of strikes. With the ongoing rumbles of war in Europe. With natural disasters and man-made ones. The swirl of the current economic crisis affecting our communities. And for some of us, our own personal grief and sorrow. Yet in my garden the snowdrops are blooming under the beech hedge. The crocuses are fighting back against the snow. My Lent discipline of time in the summer-house with God has moved from winter dark to spring light, and the sound of bird-song grows louder day on day. The time of new beginnings, new hope, is upon us. New life as we walk through this life to the next one. The promise of hope, life and light eternal shines out in this world, beckoning us on to the glories of the next.

It will be interesting to see the documentaries made by the pupils when they are done. To see what parts of St Thomas' they choose to highlight and why. But hopefully the message will shine through that Christianity is a faith based on love and acceptance. That through Christ we have a hope and future which extends beyond the boundaries of space and time.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

Holy Week Services

Monday 3rd April, 12-1pm, Self-directed Stations of the Cross, St Kentigern's
Tuesday 4th April, 11.30am, Holy Communion followed by Soul Soup Lunch, St Thomas's

Maundy Thursday 6th April, 11.30am, Holy Communion followed by Soul Soup Lunch, St Kentigern's,

6pm, Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar, St Thomas'

Good Friday, 7th April, 12-1, Good Friday service, Glenmuick Church

2-3, Good Friday Service, St Thomas'

Easter Saturday, time tbc, Easter Vigil and Bonfire, Aboyne-Dinnet Church

Easter Sunday, 7am, Sunrise Service, Sluievannachie, followed by breakfast at Glenmuick Church

9.30am, Easter Communion, St Kentigern's

11.15am, Easter Communion, St Thomas'

Mid week Communions

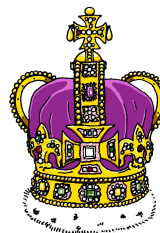
Tuesdays 18th April, 16th May, 11.30am, St Thomas'

Thursdays 27th April, 25th May, 11.30am, St Kentigern's

Lent Course – this years Lent course will be online and in person. You are welcome to come along to the Rectory on Tuesday evenings during Lent, from 7.30 -8.30. You can also join us online at that time. If you are unable to make that time but would like to join in, there will be handout sheets available.

Soul Soup Lunches

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 to then have a soup lunch available from 12 onwards. We will be doing this after our midweek communion services (volunteers to provide soup occasionally would be appreciated!) This is open to anyone – you do not need to come to the service to join us for lunch, nor do you need to a member of the church in anyway. Please come and join us and enjoy some company and some warmth.



A prayer for King Charles III on his Coronation

Everlasting God, we pray for our new King.

Bless his reign and the life of our nation.

Help us to work together

so that truth and justice, harmony and fairness

flourish among us;

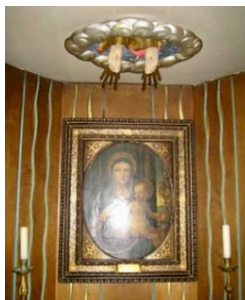
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. *(produced by the Church of England)*

Celebrating Ascension Day

Ascension Day is one of those occasions in the calendar of the church which is more or less ignored in our homes. It occurs forty days after Easter day (count six Sundays and it takes place on the Thursday of the next week). It's the day when we commemorate the ascension of Jesus into heaven, leaving his disciples behind. While Jesus was on earth with his disciples, he taught them, showed them healing and forgiveness, and demonstrated his love for all. Before he ascended into heaven, Jesus told them they could still feel him, even if they couldn't see him. Ascension Day has two messages. Firstly, in it Jesus reassures us that he will not abandon us without someone to help us – he promises to send the Holy Spirit, the comforter. Secondly, it teaches us that we can know God even though we cannot see him. The story of Ascension Day can be found in the book of Acts, chapter 1.

You can decorate for Ascension Day. Try clouds to represent the Ascension of Jesus into heaven. The Chapel of the Ascension in Walsingham has a picture of clouds on the ceiling – and a pair of plaster cast feet dangling from the centre. You could decorate with rainbows to speak of God's promise. Crystals hung in the windows will make rainbows dance across the room in the sunshine. Why not add some balloons?



If you want ideas of special foods, why not try making some meringues to represent the clouds? Or even have a go at baked Alaska (just remember to put the ice cream on a sponge base – otherwise you end with a very sticky oven - Vittoria's voice of experience!). Various recipes are available on the web to make Cloud Cake, or Ascension Day cake.

You could go for a picnic. There is an old tradition in Europe of going for a picnic on this day. Find a nice open space, preferably on top of a hill. Admire the view. Watch the clouds. And spend some time just being. You could combine this with the idea of bubble prayers - get hold of a pot of bubble mix, or make your own, using washing-up liquid and water. Have fun blowing bubbles. As you blow into them, think of people or issues that you want to pray for. Watch the prayers rise up with the bubbles to heaven.

Our Lord has written the promise of the resurrection, not in books alone,
but in every leaf in springtime. – *Martin Luther*



The new name for Send a Cow

St Thomas supports **Twin your Garden** through the Ripple Effect. We sent a contribution when they were 'Send a Cow', and after a recent approach from them it was decided to have a subsidiary Lent Appeal for them, as well as our main one for Scottish Helicopters

With a special coffee morning following our service of worship at the beginning of March, we have been able to twin our church garden 3 times and grow side by side with 3 families in rural Migori, Kenya. A huge thank you is well deserved to Lesley, Margaret and Katherine who all contributed cakes and goodies which made the coffee morning so enjoyable.

Rural Africa is rich with opportunity: resourceful communities and land which can produce enough food to feed the continent and beyond. But families in rural Kenya are finding it increasingly difficult to grow enough to eat as the climate crisis worsens and they experience longer periods of drought and unpredictable heavy rainfall.

But it doesn't take much to help a family change their future. Our donation of £180 could help 3 families living in rural Migori, Kenya, with three years training in sustainable organic farming. Starting with small kitchen gardens, families can grow enough to eat, set up small businesses, send their children to school and go after their dreams.

In recognition of our donation of £180, we have received three sustainable wooden plaques to display in our garden, a vegetable growing guide from Charles Dowding, the no-dig expert, plus some wildflower seeds to get us started on our Garden Twinning adventure. We have a 'quiet corner' in the grounds of St Thomas's near the road, where we already have some wild flowers, and grew potatoes in containers last year! There is a seat dedicated to Michael O'Connor, just the thing for quiet meditation. So our wildflower seeds will be sown here, and we will have a special visit from the Aboyne After-school Club, who will come and sow them for us - and hopefully watch them grow over the summer.

And a reminder - our Lent Appeal this year is towards the work of the Air Ambulance. This is a charity which is frequently used in this area, due to the distance from a major hospital, gets no government funding, and needs support. Do give generously.



An Easter Reflection

Where we live in the world we are especially blessed to celebrate Easter in springtime. The daffodils are bursting into flower, the cherry blossom will soon be blooming, the lambs are frolicking in the fields, and the warmth is returning in the sun. There something in us that responds to new life. We see a new baby and have to have a look, and how our hearts leap with pleasure if our gaze and cooing are returned with a full face of smile. But we also love to see that new puppy or kitten, or lamb, or calf, or foal, or bird, in fact anything new-born stirs our hearts with life and joy. Newness in flowers and animals and human beings gives us a sense of hope and a future.

It is easy to tie in all this experience of joy in new life with Easter and its fanfare message that Jesus Christ is risen from death. There is however, a problem with the analogy of Jesus' resurrection and the bursting of spring flowers, the surging of new growth, and the coming of new life. The daffodil that delights us just now will die before the summer and only come to life again after another autumn and winter. Spring flowers give a hint of what resurrection means but only in part. The main difference between their rising and the rising from death to life of Jesus is that the new life of spring flowers is cyclical, in a perpetual process of dying again and rising Jesus however rose to new life and will never die again. Jesus rose to a new life that was different. He lives beyond death and lives eternally. Jesus' resurrection is more than merely that he was dead and now is alive, as if his resurrection were a kind of reviving of life. Jesus' resurrection is that Jesus will never die again, and that is what makes his promise of his presence with us to the end of time true, awesome and wonderful. By being raised from death, Jesus is alive mysteriously and marvellously with us forever. And by his resurrection Jesus is alive to say something true and timeless about death –that death no longer has the final power over us. The final reality through the resurrection of Jesus from death is that because he lives, we also shall live. *(See John Ch. 14 verse 19).*

In a Sunday school class the children were given a sheet of paper and asked to draw a picture of themselves. Once they had all finished at their different paces, they were asked to show their pictures to their leaders. All were pictures of individuals but one was a picture of two people. The leader asked the child why she had drawn a picture of herself with someone else in it. The child answered, 'I couldn't show myself without Jesus beside me, because you told us today that Jesus is with us always.' What a grasp of the truth of the Resurrection of Jesus!

For if Jesus is risen from death as Easter declares, and if that means he is risen to life for ever, and if his promise as Risen Lord is that he will be with us to the end of time, then we are always in his company and he is always with us. Such a view of things changes everything we do and everything we have to face in life. Such a view of things changes death itself, because the promise of the Risen Christ is his presence, with us always, in life, in all things, in death and in eternal life beyond it. How does the hymn 'Abide with me' end?

*Heaven's morning breaks,
And earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord,
Abide with me.*

(H.F.Lyte, 1793 - 1847)

The four Gospel writers of the Bible all finish with a story or stories of Jesus resurrection. They come at it from different directions and give different details, among them there are, however, two features common to them all - wonder, and surprise. This year we are focusing on Matthew in most of our Gospel readings. Matthew gives us by far the most dramatic account of the Resurrection of Jesus. (See Matthew Ch. 28, verses 1 - 10). As the women approach the tomb there is an earthquake, a flash of blinding light that turned out to be an angel, and with the earthquake and the lightning the Roman soldiers guarding the tomb drop to the ground in a dead faint. But the two Mary's stay on their feet and hear the angel speak to them personally two key phrases – 'Do not be afraid.' 'He has risen'. The angel then gives them a message to tell the disciples and full of wonder and joy they are off like a shot with the news. But suddenly they are stopped in their tracks by someone greeting them and they fall on their knees before the risen Jesus and touch and hold his feet: in other words, they worshipped him.

These women were responding to God with them in the living presence of Jesus.

Matthew's resurrection story is a story of vivid contrast. We are shown the Roman guards unconscious on the ground paralysed by fear, by the Resurrection of Jesus from the dead. And we are shown the women who meet the Risen Christ kneeling on the same ground but they are energised by a different kind of fear, the fear of reverence and awe and so they are found worshipping the Risen Lord Jesus, ready to take the news of his resurrection to the world.

The Resurrection of Jesus is not meant to knock us out. It is meant to raise us up, to pull us out any preoccupation we have with ourselves, and our circumstances, into a new world of wonder, new life and hope. Because the Resurrection of Jesus opens up to us a new and lively experience of the action of God in our lives, forgiving us, guiding us, and comforting us. And it does this through showing us what that child knew and drew in her picture of herself with the accompanying figure of Jesus; because he is with us as our Living Lord, he is with us as our constant Friend, he is with us as our Helper and our Saviour, in everything, for ever.

Aren't the spring flowers lovely?

Aren't the lambs lively?

Isn't the puppy so cute?

Isn't the baby gorgeous?

Yes, yes, yes, yes they are!!!!

But what is our reaction to the Risen Lord Jesus?

We have to worship him.

We can trust him totally.

All because we have his constant companionship in all of life,
through death and for ever.

That is the wonder and surprise of Jesus' Resurrection – Easter!

Andrew Wilson

Social Contact In the Developing World

In a recent conversation Sheila suggested writing about the Africans that I worked with. What was different? Why did we not socialise easily? It got me thinking. In which countries did we mix regularly with the local population; the answer was not many, in fact ...only Malaysia. Why?

In this country we have so much that we now take for granted. Every home has running water, bathrooms and toilets, lighting, heating and communication systems, and for most of us, private transport. There are Government Pension Schemes and free National Health services. But it wasn't always like that. The first State Pension started in 1908, the NHS started in 1948, and one doesn't need to go very far back in time to see the changes that technology and wealth has brought about to our citizens. The very technology that I and my colleagues were introducing to these under-developed countries, covering electricity supply, water, sewage, and highways infrastructure.

Look first at the many crofts throughout Aberdeenshire and the Highlands. Today they have been modernised and extended and make marvellous individual homes; Go back to the start of the 20th century and what were they like? Take one of my own experiences, when in 1950 my family moved house to Musselburgh from Bearsden, to find it was supplied by 110v DC power, necessitating changes to all our electrical devices. Does it shock you to hear that Tarland, and probably other local villages, only got electricity in the 1950's. It's only since the 1930's that mains power was installed in all new homes being built. In fact the last British village to get mains electricity was Abergeirw in N.Wales in Dec 2008! Change throughout the last 100 years has been phenomenal but it hasn't yet reached most of the world's citizens.

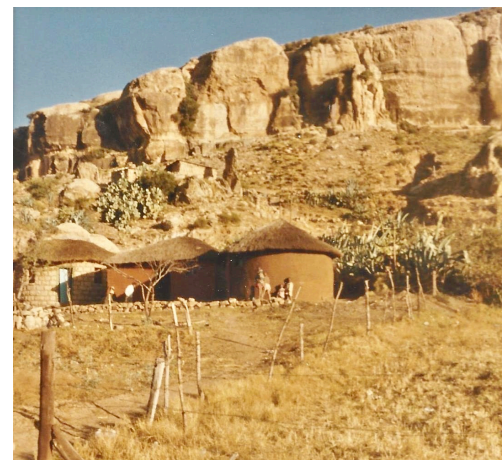
Oh yes, the educated and wealthy have most of the luxuries that we take for granted. But like many of their country's tourist hotels they need to install their own power supply, their own water and sewerage systems. They have their mobile phones, their super cars, their servants. Hence the extremes seen in so many cities around the world, with beautiful houses and apartments built next to slum areas. In the Philippines it was many months before I realised our rented house had no running water throughout the day... the included maids got up at 4am when water was available to fill the header tanks to give us a continuous supply.

We have written previously about our African experience visiting our gardener's parents' mud hut home in a bush village. My staff were given small one roomed houses with an electric light, a bed, table and chairs, and outdoor cooking facilities. Those training to be electricians in my centre (and provided with breeze block housing, running water and electricity by the company) soon discovered that a regular salary meant luxuries which could be plugged into a light socket...and the fuses started blowing. But showing them a British Council film "Down to the sea in Ships"... You try explaining an ocean to someone who has never seen anything larger than a river, and lived in a mud and straw rondavel for most of their lives.

Most of my African assignments were in semi-rural environments because the towns were smaller and countryside settlements closer. They could probably benefit from

charity-provided cattle and seeds, in spite of poor growing conditions, and I and my colleagues were attempting to develop the road infrastructure needed to connect them.

Basotho Houses



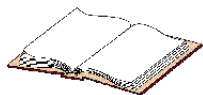
However in S.E. Asia the cities were vast and overcrowded and slum conditions prevailed. It was common to see shacks built of corrugated iron and hardboard and for raw sewerage to be running down the alleys. Neither region had running water or connected power for this level of society. We were developing water supplies.

Manila Slum



It will take generations before the rest of the world catches up... if ever. But now one begins to see why we found it difficult to trying to socialise as equals. It was like you or I trying to bridge 100 years by comparing the life of a crofter in Scotland in the year 1900 with our own. And why was Malaysia so different... the majority of its population were well educated, the infrastructure was advanced, living standards were high and the country was developing faster than we are here.

Peter Sowrey



Readings for April and May 2023

2nd April Palm Sunday	Zechariah 9:9-12 Matthew 21:1-11 Isaiah 50:4-9a Matthew 27:11-54	Anne Richardson	The Rider Family
9th April EASTER SUNDAY	Jeremiah 31:1-6 Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 28:1-10	Marcus Humphrey	The Aboyne Family
16th April Easter	Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31	Stanley Ewen	Anne Harper
23rd April	Acts 2:14a, 36-41 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35	Susan Smith	Meg White
30th April	Acts 2:42-47 1 Peter 2:19-25 John 10:1-10	Sabrina Humphrey	Isabel Wilson
7th May	Acts 7:55-60 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14	Sabine Muir	Sue and Warren Burgess
14th May	Acts 17:22-31 1 Peter 3:13-22 John 14:15-21	Stanley Ewen	Carol Simmons
18th May ASCENSION DAY	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	TBA	TBA
21st May	Acts 1:6-14 1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11 John 17:1-11	Sabrina Humphrey	Anne Harper
28th May PENTECOST SUNDAY	Numbers 11:24-30 Acts 2:1-21 John 20:19-23	Hilary Mutch	Andrew Wilson

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

St. Kentigern's, 9.30am

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

St. Thomas's, 11.15am

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

Sunday Club

St. Kentigern's, Ballater

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

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

These Services will be advertised when they have been resumed.

Anne R

The war graves' cemetery

There were three crosses on that hill,
Here there are thousands.
Can the central figure bear the pain?
The pain of aggression and despair,
The pain of generations,
The weight of all our grief?

Christ bore the pain in his own body,
The weight of loneliness and grief,
The terror of God-forsaken desolation,
The darkness of anguish and separation.
He is one with the dead thousands,
And cries 'Father forgive'.

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)

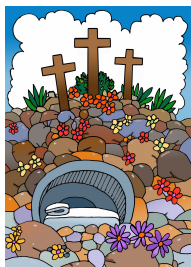
This is normally a non-Communion Service, not specifically for children, but they are of course especially welcome.

The next services are:

2nd April Palms of Praise

7th May Coronation Special

From the Bible, for the young and not so young He is risen!



Easter is a time for great celebration, when we rejoice that Jesus has risen, and is alive! Good Friday has marked the day when Jesus was crucified on the Cross, and we read of the horror of the disciples at what has happened. And the women-folk who had been looking after His needs were around, watching guardedly, afraid too come too near, but there at His death.

One of the secret disciples of Jesus had the courage to go to Pilate, who had sentenced Jesus to death, to ask for his body. So it was taken with proper respect, and was laid in a new tomb near where He was crucified, with a large stone rolled over the entrance to secure it. The next day was the Sabbath, when everyone was expected to rest- they had very strict rules about this. So very early the next day, two or three of the women took sweet spices and ointment to the tomb to anoint Jesus's body - but found that the stone had been rolled away, and there was no body there.

There are different accounts of what happened there - as the saying goes, 'recollections may vary'. There are stories of a young man in white, telling them to go to Galilee and wait for Jesus there, (*Mark ch16*) while another speaks of two men in shining garments, who reminded them of what Jesus himself had said to them when they were still in Galilee that on the third day He would rise again. (*Luke ch24*) What was clear is that the women were frightened by all this, and given reassurance.

So the women went off to tell the menfolk, and that really started something! Peter and another disciple went rushing off to see for themselves, they saw the empty tomb, the clothes Jesus was wrapped in still there in place - and no body. We are told that the 'other disciple' went in - saw, and believed. What Jesus had told them was true! And the word spread among the disciples that Jesus was alive again.

Not everyone believed this, but that evening Jesus himself came to the disciples, who were meeting together behind shut doors, they were so afraid of the Jews. He stood there with them saying 'Peace be with you' - something we often say in Church. Then He showed them His hands and side, to prove who He was.

After that, He said again 'Peace be with you' and added that His Father had sent Him - and He was now sending them in His name. And then He breathed on them, and said to them 'Receive the Holy Spirit. And if you forgive any man's sins in my name, they will remain forgiven.' And we know the story of Thomas, who was not there and did not believe. Jesus came specially to him, so that he too believed, recognised at last who Jesus was, - and said 'My Lord and my God!'

There was a lot more to come. Jesus appeared again over several days, after which He was taken into heaven, which we celebrate on Ascension Day. But He promised them the Holy Spirit, and this came amid much excitement, celebrated now on Whit Sunday - and the Christian church was born.

Christingle at St Thomas's

The Christingle service at St Thomas's this year took a different form, and came at a different time. Last year, the children made their own Christingles at the service, and this was so successful, it was decided to build on this. So it took place at | Candlemas, that festival of Light, and the whole congregation was asked to make Christingles!

In the absence of Vittoria, Sue Burgess led the service, with suitable hymns, prayers and readings. Then Sue gave a talk about the meaning of the different things making up the Christingle, the orange, the ribbon and so on. Then there was a free-for-all as everyone, children and adults together, gathered round the prepared tables to make their Christingles. It was all fun, there was a togetherness - and the deeper meaning was not lost.

It ended, as usual, with refreshments for all, and lots of fun for the children. Special thanks are due to Sue and all the contributors.

They gathered at the tables



Young and old!



A Cruise across Central Europe - part 5

Overnight we sailed on to Wertheim, and a short drive took us to Miltenberg, a gloriously pretty town. Most of the houses are half timber framed with narrow cobbled streets and being Sunday were empty, as we arrived before all the other tourists, and the locals were still in bed! There is a Catholic church in the middle of the square with a lovely story about it. A few years ago the Neo Nazis wanted to hold a rally which under the Constitution they are allowed to. Most of the nearby towns refused to let them but the priest in this church was so angry that after discussing the problem with his fellow priests in the town, drew up a cunning plan and agreed for the rally to go ahead in the Market Square. In marched the Nazis but before they could utter a word all the churches started ringing their bells so drowning out the speakers. The bells rang for 2 hours until the rally was dispersed. The priest was made a Bishop soon afterwards and still lives in the area.



Miltenberg Church



Miltenberg

We were sitting in the square with cold drinks, including our friend Bill from the USA, and Simon, another passenger, and we began talking politics when Simon berated Bill about Trump. Bill is a Trump supporter and much to our surprise went for Simon. We sat there with our mouths open as Bill is such a nice man and we had never seen that side of him. We managed to cool everything down, and by the time we were back on board the ship they were both laughing together.

We had to sit on the river bank to wait for the ship to catch us up. It was again 38C and almost unbearable, but we found a large Plane tree to shelter under.

In the afternoon we were taken to Amorbach Abbey, a beautiful Benedictine Abbey but not too much bling except for the pulpit which was way over the top! A lot of blue and white stucco carvings made it feel very light and airy. We then moved into a beautiful room within the abbey called the Gruner Saal, decorated with musical instruments, and here we were given the most wonderful concert by 5 artistes from the London



London Festival Opera Singers



Amorbach Abbey

Festival Opera who sang a fabulous mixture of songs and arias by Handel, Mozart, Gilbert & Sullivan, Verdi, Tchaikovsky and more. It was an amazing finish to a perfect day.

A slightly different day followed, as we had a very good lecture in the morning on "The Signs of the Times", which was about looking for signs on sculptures in churches which tell us what the sculptures mean. Mostly in England and Europe but a few in the Roslyn Chapel south of Edinburgh. We then left the River Main for the River Rhine, not very beautiful at this point but tomorrow it is meant to be much more beautiful in the Rhine Valley. We tied up with difficulty at Eltville as the Rhine is flowing strongly at this point, with a lot of unhelpful advice from the armchair sailors on board! Eventually the crew managed to secure her while we had lunch.

In the afternoon we had a short drive to Kloster Eberbach, a former Cistercian Abbey now run by the State, which provided an outstanding backdrop to the film "The Name of the Rose". We had a wine tasting as we were shown the different rooms, and



Kloster Eberbach

Marcus was amazed to see a robot lawnmower identical to his, hard at work on one of the extensive lawns!

Our lovely musical quintet entertained us again in the Monks' Refectory, and when the mezzo-soprano Hannah Pedley sang from Carmen, Marcus and Richard were each presented with a red rose, much jealously from the other males!



Richard and Marcus with their Carmen roses!

Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey

Notes from Aboyne-Dinnet Church

Aboyne-Dinnet and Cromar Minister returns to pulpit after surviving near death fall.

The Revd. Frank Ribbons has returned to preaching after a six month absence due to a fall whilst paragliding in the French Alps. His extensive injuries led to a week in intensive care and then a six week stay in Annecy hospital, France. After initial part time work during March, his full return will start in April. His return to preaching at Aboyne-Dinnet Church on 12th March coincided with having the Aboyne-Dinnet church bell fixed. The bell rang out on the day of his return!



A reminder that a **Daffodil Tea** will take place on Saturday, 1st April, from 10:00am - 12 noon. This will be organised by the Aboyne-Dinnet Church Guild and is always a super social occasion, with the opportunity of picking up a bundle of daffodils or two! All are welcome.

During Holy Week, Aboyne-Dinnet Church and St Thomas's Church are joining together for a traditional Easter Vigil, with bonfire, praise and refreshments afterwards. This will be on the **Saturday evening, 8th April.**

Reminiscing - my Auntie Mina



Looking through some of my old photographs I came across these that reminded me of my Auntie Mina Goodall (nee Simon) when she lived at Bonty Court, Aboyne. She was a much loved auntie, very kind hearted and had lived a very interesting and well travelled life.

She was married in St. Thomas's to Uncle Charlie when she was forty and wore a lovely gold dress. Unfortunately they were not blessed with children, but had heaps of nieces and nephews with whom to share many precious times. They are both buried in Logie Cemetery because Uncle Charlie died first, otherwise they would have been in St. Thomas's churchyard.

When her 90th Birthday was coming up, I got the job of seeing to the entertainment side of things. So I dressed up as a Christmas fairy and along with my cousin Sandy, half sung/said this silly little ditty that I had made up:-



"I'm your Christmas fairy and have come to say
I hope you'll all enjoy yourselves from now till Christmas Day.

I'll wave my magic wand about and dance about and sing
To make you laugh instead of cry, I'll try 'most anything.

All the little girlies like to be the Fairy on the Christmas tree
But I'm too fat you will agree for me to be the Fairy on that tree.

When I was only seven, a Fairy Queen was I
But now I'm well past forty, I think I'm going to cry!!!! "



Then our Pam and her friend Julie sang a selection of songs and accompanied themselves with their Guitars.

Later on I dressed up and did Jake the Peg with my wooden leg and probably something else as well like Donald Where's Your Trousers? with a kilt outfit.

We had such fun in those days!

Eileen A. Davies



Hot Chocolate Walks

The hot chocolate walks are continuing – gentle walks in the local area to explore a point of interest. There are rarely big hills, bogs, or rivers to negotiate. If it is lashing down with rain, snowing a blizzard or blowing a hoolie, we stay at home. No endurance test is needed.

Vittoria will be walking again on 2nd April from the Raebush junction to the old Celtic cross at Loch Kinord (meet at the junction). The next walk will be on the 23rd April from St Thomas' to the stone circle in the castle grounds, and then the long way back across the Tarland Burn and the Dee. Both will leave from the starting point at 2pm.

We are also planning a walk later in the year to St Lesmo's, leaving later on in the evening, and culminating with a picnic and then Compline in the chapel. This will be on Sunday 18th June.

Taking part in these walks is at your own risk. Please come suitably dressed with appropriate footwear.

Choral Evensong

The St Thomas's Augmented Choir is at last resuming work for the Choral Evensong that was postponed three years ago when Covid struck. It will now take place on Sunday evening, **11th June**, and as part of the service, the choir will be singing works by Charles Wood and Stanford. It is hoped that lots of people will want to come and share in this.

Maggie's Coffee Morning

Maggie Jaffrey held a Coffee Morning at Ravenswood on Saturday 11th Feb, in aid of St Kentigern's funds. It was a St Valentine themed event with some some scrumptious strawberry tarts, scones and delicious heart shaped shortbread.

Lots of people attended and the grand total was £710.



There was a fantastic raffle, including a heart-shaped cake, won by Ivy Duncan.



Out West

A devout cowboy lost his Bible while he was mending fences out on the range. Three weeks later a cow walked up to him, carrying the Bible in its mouth. The cowboy couldn't believe his eyes. He took the book out of the cow's mouth and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Well, hardly that," said the cow. "Your name was written inside the cover."

Congratulations and Commiserations

Baptism

The baptism of Elisabeth Graham took place in St Ninian's, Mar Lodge, in March. The baptism of Teddy Rider is due to take place in St Thomas' in April.

Please pray for Elisabeth and Teddy and their families

Funeral

The funeral of Andrew Forbes took place in St Thomas' in March.

Please pray for his family as they grieve the loss of their loved one.

Singing the Messiah



Isabel, Sue, Carol, Andrew, Jill, Angela

These members of St Thomas's choirs took part in a "Come and Sing Messiah" organised by Tara Leiper. A choir of about 50 performed at the Phoenix Centre, part of the Newton Dee Community after an afternoon of rehearsal. We all enjoyed the experience of singing in a larger choir, and with such an iconic piece of music. Some of the audience joined in the Hallelujah chorus as well.

Many thanks to all those involved with organisation, refreshments, accompaniment and mostly to Tara.

Sue

Present

For their elderly vicar's 70th birthday, the congregation at St Mary's decided to give him a present of a new suit. The vicar was so moved by the gift that the following Sunday he stood before everyone and began his homily with a tear in his eye, "Today I am preaching to you in my birthday suit."

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

Pastoral Cards for the sick or bereaved

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

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

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

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

WEB-SITES

St Thomas's Web-site has been transferred and upgraded. It has also been possible to have the photos in their original colour. The new link is <http://www.stthomasaboyne.org>

If you want to get in touch, please email: stthomasaboyne@gmail.com

St Kentigern's Web-site is: stkentigernsballater.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

Doreen Ewen (tel 013397 55538)

Important

The Tattler needs you!

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

The next Edition is starting now.
Please give or send all contributions to the Editor,
or to Anne Richardson at Ballater,
by May 16th

CONTACTS :

Treasurer
Secretary
Lay Representative
Vestry Members

Sacristan
Organist
Youth Leader
Child Protection Officer
Chalice Bearers

Secretary
Treasurer
Lay representative
Vestry Members

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

ST. KENTIGERN'S

Marcus Humphrey
Sabine Muir
Hilary Mutch
Sabrina Humphrey
Margaret Jaffray
Sabine Muir
Anne Richardson
Susan Smith
Hilary Mutch
Stanley Ewen
Anne Richardson
Anne Richardson
Roger Searle. Mary Fennell, Marcus Humphrey,
Susan Smith, Douglas Mutch, Sabine Muir

ST. THOMAS'S

Anne Harper
Sue Burgess
Anne Harper
Warren Burgess
Sheila Maxwell
Katherine Rider
Carol Simmons
Lesley Thomas
Sheila Maxwell
Lesley Thomas
Carol Simmons, Jo Elson, Lesley Thomas
Warren Burgess, Peter Sowrey, Andrew Wilson, Sue Burgess
Jill Binns
Warren Burgess
Michael Bruce

ST. NINIAN'S

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

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Smith, Marie Wilde, Sue Burgess

