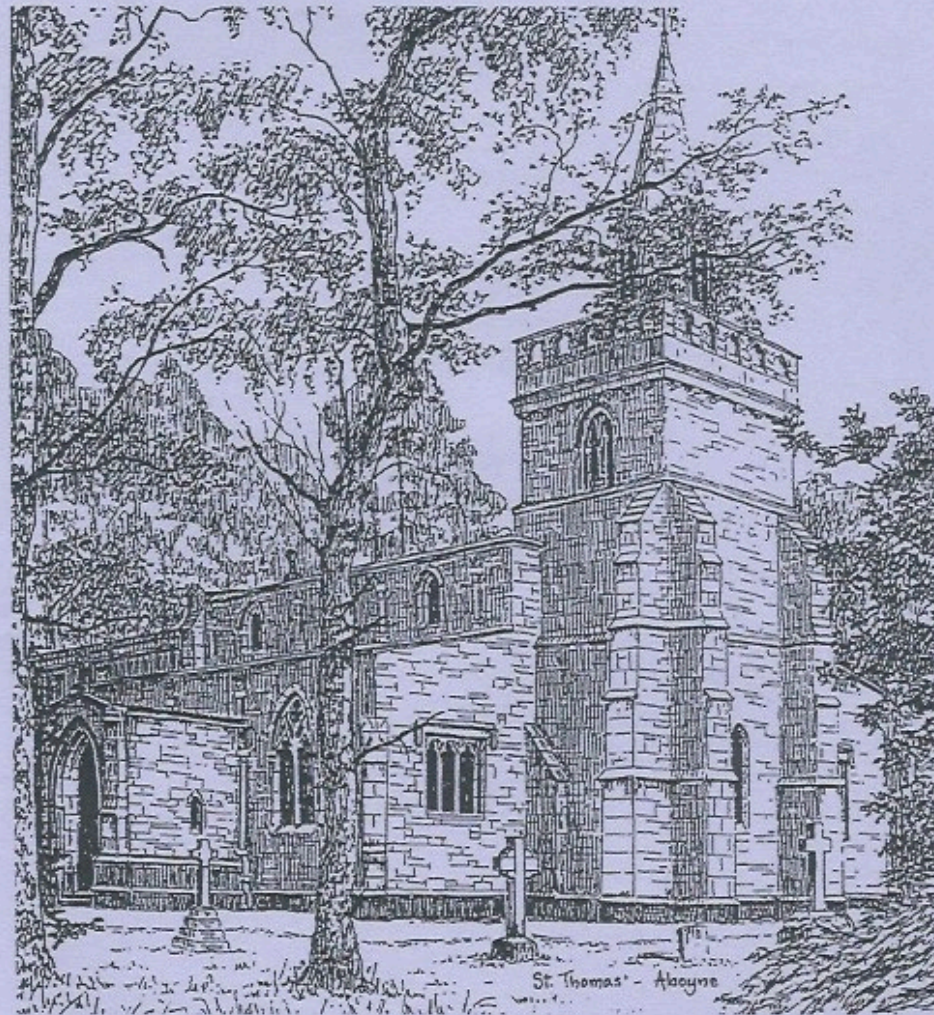


The Deeside Tattler

August and September 2022



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



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

Midweek Communions

Tuesday 9th August, 10.30am, St Thomas'
Thursday 25th August, 10.30am, St Kentigern's
Tuesday 13th September, 10.30am, St Thomas'
Thursday 29th September, Feast of St Michael and All Angels, 10.30am, St Kentigern's

Dates for the Diary

30th July, 2pm, Cello Concert, St Thomas'
August 6th – 14th Ballater Victoria Week
7th August, 9.30am, Baptism of Alistair Rawson, St Kentigern's
11.15am, Baptism of Theo Mellett, St Thomas'
10th August, 2-3.30, Tree and Teas, St Kentigern's
11th August, 7pm, Institution of Suzanne Brumwell to the Donside Group of Churches
18th August, 10am, St Thomas' Family Worship Group meeting, at Marie's.
4th September, 11.15am, Baptism of Aurora Pearl Deakin, St Thomas'
10th September, 1.30pm, St Kentigern's Church Fair, Victoria Hall
2nd October, Harvest Festival at St Kentigern's
9th October, Harvest Festival at St Thomas's

From the Editor: The Scottish Episcopal Church is marking the Season of Creation, which is being celebrated by Christians around the world. We have a few articles this time about this, including photos of St Thomas's quiet corner in the church grounds, which is being sown with wild flower seeds among other things. The Season runs from 1st September to 4th October, so hopefully we will have a photo of the St Kentigern's garden in the next issue, they have a lovely garden alongside the church. Christians are becoming more conscious of our relationship with nature in different ways, and it is good to include something about them. We also have our usual mix of thoughtful pieces, fascinating memories, news and so on. We are grateful to all who have contributed, and welcome new contributors, it all makes for a home-grown and lively magazine. **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

It has been an odd few weeks in the Rectory. First a horrible chest infection, then four days away – hooray! - then back for a week, then the dreaded Covid-19 hit. I am not back to normal just yet. I can't remember when I last did so much sitting around doing not a lot.

The negatives – well, the lack of energy, the lingering cough, etc. – I won't bore you with that. I have missed visiting you. I have grumbled about the fact that now I have time, but I don't have energy to do all those things I want to do – finish revarnishing and upholstering the dining chairs, for example. The emails have continued to come in, and the phone continued to ring.

The positives of this are plentiful. I have wonderful congregations who have delivered various goodies (chocolate, strawberry tarts, dessert pots...), offered to do my shopping, and guarded my time and space. Thank you. I have spent time in my summer house, just being, watching the path of the sun across the lawn, and pondering weeding the garden. I have caught up on various radio programmes – The Museum of Curiosities and the Curious Cases of Rutherford and Fry to name a couple. I have rediscovered the joy of a nap. I would say an afternoon nap, but at the moment it's an 'after any exertion nap'. My walks have of necessity been slower and gentler, which means I have seen more wildlife. From a stoat darting across the path in front of me, to a small vole scurrying ahead, to a buzzard taking off and flying over my head, so close I could feel the down-draft from it's wings. While my holiday was of necessity a little more leisurely than planned, that meant I stopped more often and for longer, sat in the back of my car, eating oatcakes and cheese and just watching the world go by. From dolphins in the Moray

Firth, to sparrows hopping ever closer, hoping for a crumb of oatcake. I have quite literally sat and smelt the roses.

I would love to say I had used my time in deep prayer and reflection, but the fact is, I haven't. Not in the way a lot of people would describe prayer. Prayer is often seen as active – when we say 'let us pray' in church, we all bow our heads, close our eyes. We use words – or struggle to find the right words. We pray for things or people– world peace, climate change, healing, government. We strive to connect, to feel. We plead or implore, interceding on behalf of others. We search for guidance and direction. Sometimes prayer feels like a battle-ground. And to be honest, I haven't had the energy for that type of prayer.

But prayer can equally be just spending time with God. Although this is not how I would have chosen to use this time and space, there has been a gentle awareness that God is with me, walking alongside, sitting in the summer house, in the scent of the roses and the sound of the sea. I have noted his presence with me. And this acknowledgement that he shares this time and space with us is prayer. A knowledge that he is with us, and we are with him. In this 'being prayer', being present, there is a source of peace, of comfort, of tranquillity, of strength. Sometimes we need to be quiet – both physically and mentally – be still, and just be. There is no need to strive to meet with God, for he is there already. Stop. Rest. Breathe. And be in the presence of God who loves us.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

* * * * *

Recording at St Thomas's

Warren has been working hard to enable recordings of services and other events at St Thomas's. Some trials have been done with remarkable success, but there is still work to be done on the sound, before Warren will be satisfied that they can be put out for general use. But watch this space!
Our thanks to Warren yet again for all his innovative work for us.

Thoughts from Fairacres



I wrote a piece in the Tattler a few months ago about Fairacres, my 'second home' which I hadn't visited for nearly three years. Fortunately, I was able to spend a week there last month, sharing in the Community's life in their newly renovated building, which is both welcoming and practical. Amongst all the alterations, the chapel is almost unchanged. It is still the heart of the Community's worship, and a place of prayer at any time, something which I found very helpful.

I have been re-reading a book called **Loving God Whatever**, which is subtitled 'Through the year with Sister Jane'. There is a short extract each day from her letters to people (often priests) in response to questions about faith, difficulties with work or relationships, or from talks she gave to the Community when she was Reverend Mother from 1973-1988.

I didn't know her very well, but in the few times I met her, I would come away feeling, understood, accepted and blessed. She truly showed God's love in a special way. I have found the three extracts below particularly helpful while I was at the convent, and at home. They provide no easy answers, but seem to me to be realistic and well worth pondering

"Coming back to 'waiting'. I persist in believing that "the faith and the hope and the love are all in the waiting", as T.S. Eliot says. I think that a sense of God and a sense of prayer have to be let go of, and even, maybe, the conviction that he *is*, so that we live with risk, and the possibility of self-delusion"

"How terrifying evil is, and one feels so helpless. It is frightening when there is nothing left to hold on to except the head knowledge that Love in Christ *has* overcome, not in *victory* but in *defeat*. But when in the face of so much suffering in the world one feels defeated, *ipso facto* the head knowledge doesn't cut much ice".

"We cannot attempt to justify God's ways, or presume to think we know what he should do; but we can affirm our faith and hope and love by willingly 'keeping on keeping on' in the face of life's impasses, and by being alert to delight in the evidences of God's love and care which are there for eyes that can see them. And we can try always to offer the whole gamut of human experience to God, trusting him to use us for his purposes, which are beyond our understanding".

Carol Simmons

*Extracts are taken from **Loving God whatever**.*

Through the Year with Sister Jane Community of the Sisters of the Love of God Pages 35, 36, 37.

Edited by Jim Cotter and Sister Avis Mary SLG

Cairns Publications, Harlech in association with the Sisters of the Love of God, Oxford. 2006

Lammas Day

This year in our churches we are going to celebrate Lammas Day on the 31st July. Lammas or Loaf Mass Day is a Christian holiday which used to be celebrated frequently in Britain and Ireland. The name comes from the Old English *hlaf*, 'loaf' and *mæsse*, 'mass'. As our world has become less connected to agriculture and the environment, it has slipped out of use. In our current society and culture we have the privilege of often forgetting that the harvest affects everyone - it's not an optional extra or a mystic observance – Lammas Day reminds us of that. It is celebrated on the 1st August, or the Sunday closest to that date. It celebrates the bringing in of the first grain harvest, and traditionally a loaf baked from the newly harvested grain would be brought into church on that day, blessed, and used for Holy Communion. In the medieval agricultural year, Lammas also marked the end of the hay harvest that had begun after Midsummer.



It is one of the oldest points of contact between the agricultural world and the Church. The others were Plough Sunday in early January, the Sunday after Epiphany and the day before work would begin again in the fields after Christmas festivities, when ploughs would be brought to church to be blessed; and Rogation days in May, the days before Ascension Day, when God's blessing would be sought on the growing crops.

There are various speculations about the origin of the day. In the UK, it can be traced back to the Anglo-Saxon period, and is mentioned in a number of Anglo-Saxon texts, some of which quote from Welsh and Irish literature. It is also sometimes known as Gule August – from the Welsh Gwyl Awst, meaning the Feast of August. Some people link it with the Jewish Festival of Shavuot or Weeks, which also celebrates the first harvest, and is when two new loaves of bread are brought as an offering. Others see parallels with the pagan festival of Lughnasadh, which occurs roughly between summer solstice and the equinox. In the Scottish Highlands, people used to sprinkle their cows and the floors of their houses with blood, which they believed was especially potent against evil on this day. It was also one of the quarter days in Scotland, when tenants brought in the first new grain to their landlords. It was seen in Anglo-Saxon times as marking the beginning of the autumn season – bearing in mind that to Anglo-Saxons, harvest and autumn were interchangeable terms!

Whatever the origin, it became a day to give thanks for the generosity of God, and to pray his blessing upon creation and the harvest yet to come.\

If you want more information on Lammas, you can find some on-line at :
<https://aclerkofxford.blogspot.com/2017/08/a-little-history-of-lammas.html>

A Poem for Lammas

In Old English poetry, in a beautiful calendar poem known as the *Menologium*, Lammas appears. In the section for August – also known as 'Weed-month' - this poem describes Lammas and the coming of autumn:

*And þæs symle scriþ
ymb seofon niht þæs sumere gebrihted
Weodmonað on tun; welhwær bringeð
Agustus yrmenþeodum
hlafmæssan dæg. Swa þæs hærfest cymð
ymbe oðer swylc butan anre wanan,
wlitig, wæstmum hladen. Wela byð geywed
fægere on foldan.*

And after seven nights
of summer's brightness Weed-month slips
into the dwellings; everywhere August brings
to peoples of the earth Lammas Day. So autumn comes,
after that number of nights but one,
bright, laden with fruits. Plenty is revealed,
beautiful upon the earth.

And a Lammas Ritual:

If you have mice in your house, there is also an old Lammas Day ritual which was meant to protect your house and your harvest from pests:

“[Take two] long pieces of four-edged wood, and on each piece write a Pater noster (*a Lord's prayer*), on each side down to the end. Lay one on the floor of the barn, and lay the other across it, so that they form the sign of the cross. And take four pieces of the hallowed bread which is blessed on Lammas day, and crumble them at the four corners of the barn. This is the blessing for that; so that mice do not harm these sheaves, say prayers over the sheaves and do not cease from saying them. 'City of Jerusalem, where mice do not live they cannot have power, and cannot gather the grain, nor rejoice with the harvest.' This is the second blessing: 'Lord God Almighty, who made heaven and earth, bless these fruits in the name of the Father and the Holy Spirit.' Amen. And [then say] a Pater Noster.”

Quoted from Karen Louise Jolly, 'Tapping the Power of the Cross: Who and For Whom?', in The Place of the Cross in Anglo-Saxon England, ed. Catherine E. Karkov, Sarah Larratt Keefer, and Karen Louise Jolly (Woodbridge: The Boydell Press), p. 79

Season of Creation

Last year, the Scottish Episcopal Church added a Season of Creation to our liturgical calendar. This reflects the commitment of our Church to care of the environment, and is a response to the global environmental and climate crisis. It is built on the premise – and belief – that God created the world, that it is good, and that we, as human beings created in God’s image, have a particular responsibility for the care of God’s creation. It is right that this be reflected in our worship.

The season of Creation runs from the first Sunday of September to the Thanksgiving for the Harvest, which is usually celebrated towards the beginning of October. This year we are holding the first Sunday of September as Creation Sunday.

During this season of Creation, we are encouraged to look at our own way of life. Are we living in a way which is environmentally friendly? How are we responding to the current climate crisis? What things – small or large – can we do to live in a more sustainable way? What can we offer to those around us? Is there something you can suggest to the people around you that they could easily do?

Both our churches are already working on becoming more environmentally conscious and sustainable – from the large items such as new heating systems, to smaller things such as recycling service sheets, using reusable mugs, and having wild-life zones in our grounds. What else do you think we could do as churches?

* * * * *

Nature at St Thomas’s Church grounds

The new planter in the quiet area is now planted with some bee-friendly perennials, with lots of wildflower seeds added. Hopefully over the next year, it will develop into a hive of insect activity, and provide some colour into the corner.

Potatoes are also being earthed up in their containers - increasing the crop.

Sue Burgess



Potatoes are doing well!

Plant Abuse

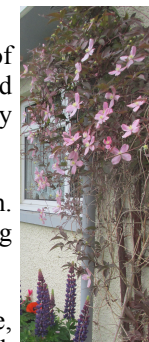
Am I the only one who, when watching TV, winces when flowers get unceremoniously dumped upside down into bins, when the characters have an argument? Or worse, actors bashing each other about with them? It’s enough to raise my blood pressure and shouting at the TV.

Surely there should be a society for the protection of plants and flowers? If not, should we start one? Maybe I should write to TV companies encouraging their script writers to not murder flowers but donate them to people who appreciate them instead.

I often see plants and flowers uncared for in supermarkets, dying of thirst, such a scandalous waste. Why can’t a staff member be appointed to take care of them and water them when needed. Who wants to buy dead plants?

God created these beautiful flowers; we are responsible for them. Flowers are His gift to us; we must do Him the courtesy of looking after them and respect them.

Even now, I keep flowers past their best and eke out their existence, snipping away the stems, freshening the water until they are beyond aesthetic acceptance. When the beautiful Easter flower displays were taken out of church, destined for the compost heap, I managed to rescue a large bunch of daffodils, as they still had a couple of days’ life in them. I try to keep them as long as I can. I just can’t help myself.



*Clematis
in flower*



It’s such a joy checking the garden when the first buds appear, the promise of new life. The excitement when they reveal their glorious colours. There is sadness when a much-loved plant doesn’t appear, then relief when it bursts into life after all.

I simply don’t want to go on holiday during the months of May and June, when my poppies and peonies are on show. I can be found in my garden with my nose stuck in flowers, listening to birds and watching insects, while revelling in the beauty of His peace.

Sabine Muir

Danube Travels 1



Our riverboat cruise along the Danube from the Black Sea to Amsterdam planned for last year was postponed due to Covid, and when Sabrina and I together with Richard and Pamela Marsh from Bellabeg set off at the end of May, we were still anxious that one of us might test positive or that it might be cancelled again! Probably the worst part of the entire trip was our departure from Aberdeen Airport, with our flight delayed by 3 hours and further delays on our arrival at Heathrow. After an early morning taxi ride to a seething Terminal 3, we were then asked to check in our hand luggage for the flight to Budapest, being told "it will be first off"; no chance, as neither Sabrina's nor Pam's arrived, though happily they did shortly afterwards. We then had a further 2 hour coach journey to the Danube Delta to join our ship.

The Royal Crown is a lovely ship, built in the traditional manner with lots of wood panelling and brass fixtures, beautifully furnished and very comfortable. Lashings of hot water, excellent food, lovely staff and guides, with nothing too much trouble.



The Sturgeons

On our first day we went by coach from Harsova to Tulcea about 60 miles away on the Delta, with a brief stop at the Maritime Museum where we saw several proper Sturgeons swimming around! The drive to the Delta was most interesting, as we drove through the flatlands of Romania where it was field after field of wheat, barley, sunflower, oilseed rape as far as one could see.

Perhaps they will be the new Breadbasket of Europe until the Ukraine can get back to normal. When the Communist regime took over after WW2 all private property was confiscated, then returned to the rightful owners again after the fall of the Berlin Wall when Romania regained its independence, although now almost a quarter of the good arable land is owned by private corporations. I had not realised just how much of Central Europe was under Turkish domination for 500 years from the late 1300s to the 1870s when the Ottoman Empire finally collapsed - it included the whole of what is now Romania, Bulgaria and most of Hungary and the Balkans.

Happily the indigenous population never gave up their Christianity, 3 of the countries we passed through, Romania, Bulgaria and Serbia are staunchly Eastern Orthodox, we

saw many fine old churches restored and also many new ones being built. We spent the afternoon on a smaller boat going through the Delta wetlands to see a wide variety of aquatic birds, mainly storks and pelicans grebes, and kingfishers. At one time we were only 6 miles from the Ukrainian border! We returned to the ship after a long day, and dined as it then sailed to our next stop at Cernavoda.

An early start next morning to be on the coaches by 9am for an hour's drive through the fertile landscape of the Dobrogea Region to Constanta, once a Roman port and the 4th largest in Europe, where we visited the Ethnographic Museum and the Museum of Natural History and Archaeology as well as the Turkish Mosque and the Orthodox Cathedral, where there was an upsetting incident. We had all gone inside the Cathedral except for one man who during the Covid outbreak lost all feeling in his feet so walking and climbing steps is difficult for him, so he decided to stay outside sitting on a wall, when a so-called "policeman" came up to him and asked to see his papers. The old boy did not understand him, so the man patted him over and relieved him of £200 which was in his pocket. Someone called out, his wife rushed out and was just relieved he was not hurt, but it left a nasty feeling and the local guide was very upset. Fortunately it was the only such incident on the entire trip, and was a warning to the rest of us to always be on the alert.



The Cake

As we drove we passed through lovely villages and although poor every house or cottage has the most beautiful garden with wonderful roses and vines for making their own wine. After a late lunch on the ship we had a short rest before our Platinum Jubilee Afternoon Tea, when the staff produced a beautiful cake surmounted by a crown, with miniature Union flags everywhere, and all aboard drank Her Majesty's health. This was followed by a lecture: "The History of the Balkans in a Nutshell", after which an American came up to Sabrina and said "Haven't I seen you

somewhere before, have you been on another Nobel Caledonia cruise?" It emerged that we had been on the Indian Ocean cruise together in 2014/15! He is great fun, and joined us for the Jubilee Dinner.

The Dining Saloon looked magnificent, bedecked with more Union flags to which we added our own, and an excellent evening was had by all.

Marcus Humphrey



Pam, Bill the American, and Sabrina

Ballater Victoria Week

Ballater Victoria Week is almost upon us. St Kentigern's has its scarecrow planned, and the white ducks will be sailing down Church Green in aid of St Kentigern's. You can buy duck tickets online at <http://www.ballatervictoriaweek.co.uk/Ducks.html>



Tree and Tea

On the Wednesday of Victoria Week, 10th August, we are hosting Tree and Tea, at 2 - 3.30. We will be planting a small tree to mark the Queen's Jubilee and then heading inside to enjoy a cup of tea together. Please feel free to join us.

* * * * *

News from Aboyne-Dinnet

FareShare

The Green Shed between Aboyne-Dinnet Church and the Church Hall will be open for free FareShare food every Tuesday between 10:00 and 11:00, Thursdays between 14:00 and 15:00 and on Sunday between 10:00 and 12:00 hours. This is available for anyone - we only ask that people bring their own shopping bags and use the sanitising gel provided.

Aboyne Games tent

Aboyne-Dinnet Church will have a tent at the Aboyne Games on 6th August. You are invited to drop in for a chat. There will be an activity table for children.

Ladies Breakfast

The next Ladies Breakfast will be in the hall on **Saturday, 1st October**, at 10:00am. The ticket price remains at £5. The food, as always, will be a cold Continental breakfast.

This time the speaker will be Alison Hodgetts, who will talk to us about her travel. Her presentation is called '*Overland Travel and the Heart of the Silk Road*'.

Future Events

The Guild is on summer break but will restart again with an afternoon tea (and cakes) in the Church Hall on Huntly Road on **Thursday 6th October** 14:30 to 16:30 hours. Our celebrity guest will be Rev Frank Ribbons.

We will have a Men's Breakfast on **Saturday, 22nd October**, at 10:00. Tickets will also be £5. The attending men will be served a bacon buttie, coffee or tea and refreshing orange juice. Rev Frank Ribbons will speak on the subject of '**The Holy Land: land of promise, conflict, hope**'.

Everyone will be made very welcome to any of the above events.

John Bunyan

The man who wrote Pilgrim's Progress is commemorated on 30th August

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the Pilgrim's Progress, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family, and he had little formal education. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote Pilgrim's Progress. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the Pilgrim's Progress covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

The well-known hymn 'Who would true valour see' is written by Bunyan, recalling the words of Hebrews 11:13 "...and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth." Some of the words have been softened in modern times - not everyone likes to sing about hobgoblins these days - but these are said to be some of the original words:

(Adapted from the Parish Pump)

Who would true valour see,
let him come hither;
one here will constant be,
come wind, come weather;
there's no discouragement
shall make him once relent
his first avowed intent
to be a pilgrim.

Hobgoblin nor foul fiend
can daunt his spirit;
he knows he at the end
shall life inherit.
Then fancies fly away;
he'll fear not what men say;
he'll labour night and day
to be a pilgrim.



Readings for August and September 2022

7th August Trinity 8	Genesis 15:1-16 Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Luke 12:32-40	Anne Richardson	Aboyne Family
14th August Trinity 9	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2 Luke 12:49-56	Stanley Ewen	Meg White
21st August Trinity 10	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-12	Marcus Humphrey	Rider Family
28th August Trinity 11	Proverbs 25:6-7 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14: 1, 7-14	Margaret Jaffray	Carol Simmons
4th September Trinity 12 Season of Creation	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33	Sabrina Humphrey	Warren and Sue Burgess
11th September Trinity 13	Exodus 32:7-14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Sabine Muir	Isabel Wilson
18th September Trinity 14	Amos 8:4-7 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Hilary Mutch	Andrew Wilson
25th September Trinity 15	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31	Anne Richardson	Anne Harper

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

St. Kentigern's, 9.30am

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

St. Thomas's, 11.15am

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

Sunday Club St. Kentigern's, Ballater

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

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

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

Young Church at St. Thomas's

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

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

Next Services will be:
7th August: Hunting for Treasure
4th September: Creation Sunday

The Chapel of St Ninian, Mar Lodge, Braemar

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

God's Creation

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was waste and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep: and the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said 'Let there be light', and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good.....God saw everything He had made, and behold it was very good. (Genesis ch 1 vv 1-4, 31)

For the beauty of the earth,
For the beauty of the skies,
For the Love which from our birth
Over and around us lies:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our Sacrifice of Praise.

For the beauty of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower,
Sun and moon and stars of light:
Lord of all, to Thee we raise
This our Sacrifice of Praise.

From the Bible, for the young and not so young

The Conversion of St Paul



St Paul is well known as the writer of all the letters that make up a large part of the New Testament, like his letters to the Romans, or the Corinthians.

The early part of his life is interesting, because he did not start as a follower of Jesus, quite the reverse. When he was young, Saul was one of those who joined in the persecution of the Christians, and was present when the Christian leader Stephen was stoned to death.

But then one day, he was on the road to Damascus, searching for more Christians to persecute, when he had an extraordinary experience. A bright light suddenly appeared from the heavens and flashed about him. In his alarm, he fell to the ground, and then heard a voice saying to him 'Saul, why are you persecuting me?' Saul asked who was speaking to him, and the voice said 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.' He was told to go to the village and wait - and the effect of all this was that he became totally blind. The people with him didn't know what to think, but they took Saul by the hand and led him carefully into Damascus. And Saul remained blind for three days, nor did he eat or drink.

He was rescued by a man called Ananias. This man had a vision, telling him to go to a certain house where Saul was praying and expecting him to come and lay his hands on him. Ananias objected strongly - this man was well known for all the evil he was doing to the Christians. But the Lord said just to go - he had chosen Saul to do great things for him. So Ananias did as he was told, went to the house where Saul was, and laid his hands on him, saying that the Lord Jesus sent him so that he would get his sight back - and be filled with the Holy Spirit. And so it happened!

This was a wonderful miracle. Saul got his sight back at once, then got up and was baptised. He started eating again and was strengthened. Then he went to the local synagogue, and proclaimed that Jesus is the Son of God. This confused the Jews, who had believed that he was one of them, and they plotted desperately to kill him. Being in great danger, he was rescued by the disciples, who lowered him over the town's wall in a basket, at dead of night.

His early troubles continued when he went to Jerusalem and found that the disciples there were afraid of him, and didn't believe he had really changed. It was Barnabas who went to explain what had happened, after which he became accepted as one of the Christians, using a new name. And so started the wonderful missionary work of St Paul.



From St Paul's Letter to the Philippians:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honourable, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. The things ye both learned and received and heard and saw in me, these things do: and the God of peace shall be with you. (*Chapter 4 vv8&9, Revised Version*)

An army of birds

The sea fights back against the massed birds
Seemingly overwhelmed by the odds
It inches back, minute by minute

The oystercatchers march one by one
Towards the retreating tide
Red boots on display, beaks at attention

The gulls perch like sentries on the rocks
Huddled against the wind
With watchful eyes

The curlew dodges in and out of the ranks
Harassing the crowds
Like a general marshalling the troops

Brent geese lumber forwards like aircraft carriers
Preparing for take off
Battling against the wind

Behind are the white egrets
Assessing the situation
With a measured and stately walk

The sea fights back against the massed birds
Seemingly overwhelmed by the odds
It inches back, minute by minute

Vittoria Hancock



BASS NOTES

You are old, Father William...

(For an excellent reading of the whole poem I recommend visiting www.poetryarchive.org)

I encourage you to read – or re-read - Lewis Carroll's poem, because I think I am more and more in tune with Father William. For example, like many readers of this publication, I can clearly remember the Great Drought of 1976 – taps ran dry; the media shouted; the Prime Minister felt the need to act and when Dennis Howell (technically Minister for Sport) was given extra responsibility as Minister for Drought, the rain promptly began and the 'driest summer for 200 years' came to an end.

As it was with 1976, so it is with the Great Heatwave of 2022 – health warnings were issued; the media shouted; this time the Prime Minister Who Is Not Really the Prime Minister did not act, but the heatwave came to an end anyway, the media found new things to alarm us, and the year 2022 took its place along with 1976 as yet another defining moment in the long history of UK climate crises. Other countries have



hurricanes, we have stiff breezes; they have torrential rainstorms and tsunamis, we have dreich days; their trains race on, our railways buckle in the heat. Summer of 2022, then, another year that will fade in the memory, to be forgotten until it is resuscitated for some future media weather extravaganza.

I clearly remember the end of that drought in 1976. My father-in-law had sold me his number two pride and joy – a red mini Clubman estate. I had whisked away his number one pride and joy by marrying her the year before. Together Johanna and I were about to set off for Istanbul, where I was to work with the British Council. On the final evening of the Great Drought we loaded our worldly goods into the back of the Mini Cubman and set off for Stirling station to catch the overnight Motorail to Dover.

Younger readers may require an explanation of the term 'Motorail'. In 1976 it was possible to have your car driven on to flat wagons attached to the rear of a passenger train, climb into one of the passenger coaches and waken up next day refreshed after a good night's sleep ready to catch the ferry to France, not having had to drive the length of the country. That was the theory.

That night in 1976, we were unaware of the teeming rain lashing our train as we sped south. The rainstorm ending the Great Drought rendered Dennis Howell's role superfluous. My father-in-law's mini had never travelled so far or so fast or been so comprehensively drenched. So drenched, in fact that it stubbornly refused to start when we reached Dover, despite the best efforts of railway staff and port officials.



When the mini's internal workings had partially dried out, hours later, Johanna pushed the car, while I jump-started it (man's job), we boarded a ferry, and Johanna later helped to push us off the ferry and on to a French dockside. Minis are delicate creatures, we discovered, and ours never forgave us for that

cold, high-speed soaking that ended the Great Drought of 1976. Not in France, not in Germany, Austria, Yugoslavia (younger readers, just speak to an older person), Bulgaria or Turkey, where parking on slopes and a bracing push from Johanna got us started each day.

Yes, Johanna and I remember summer 1976 well.

Eric Sinclair



"Due to our failure to secure a holiday-relief organist, the next hymn will also be sung to the tune, *Chopsticks*."

My Lucky Break

In 1987, whilst working for British Water International in Newbury, I had the only special lucky break in my career. The most senior administrator in our office was indisposed and I was told to take his place on a Government sponsored British Water Industries Group Trade Mission to South America.

It was a three week mission, so we made arrangements for Jean to stay with friends in Vevey, Switzerland for the duration. I then flew back to Amsterdam to join the team as “Consultor par Mission Commercial a Venezuela, Columbia y Chile”. I might add here that all flights were Business Class.

Landing in Caracas on a Saturday morning gave us a little time to acclimatise and



The German Village

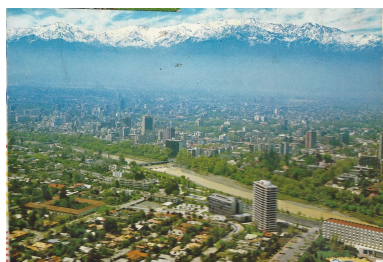
get our bearings for what was to become a hectic week of meetings with top officials from the water sector. However there was some free time and on that first day we had an informal luncheon and briefing with the British Embassy’s commercial secretary. This was followed by a tour of Caracas, and on the Sunday a visit to a “German village” in the mountains which had only recently been connected by a road – having been isolated for many generations – and still retaining the German language!

On Monday the work began.... meetings, meetings, meetings. But at least there was a British Embassy reception that first evening. On Thursday we flew to Maricaibo (on the sea lake of that name) for more meetings, but with a boat trip (and swim) on the Lake on the Friday, as part of our investigations.

Saturday was spent flying via Baranguilla to Bogota in Columbia. Then, with a free Sunday ahead, we were bussed out for a tour of the famous salt cathedral at Zipaquirá, some 40Km from Bogota, followed by a barbeque at a nearby horse ranch. Once again the meetings and visits started on the Monday, but were tempered by another Embassy cocktail party. This one had a special warning... whisky at 2,600 m is 3 times as potent.

It was!

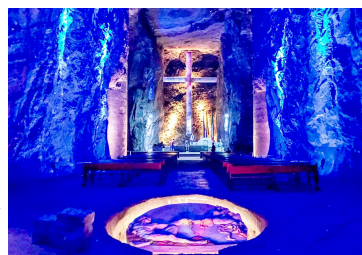
On the Wednesday we had a special treat. We were bussed down to the old walled Caribbean town of Cartagena for an overnight stay. Time to walk the narrow streets as the sun went down, dine in the open air tropical heat, see some of the magnificent



Santiago, Chile

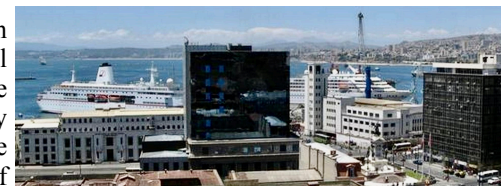
old buildings left by the Spanish conquerors, and an early morning swim in the Caribbean before breakfast in the hotel gardens.

Then it was back to work in Bogota before flying to our final Country, Chile, on the Saturday, arriving early evening in Santiago. Once again a little time to see the city in its bowl surrounded by mountains. On the Sunday we took a cable car up to these mountains, returning by a funicular railway to the city.



The Salt Cathedral

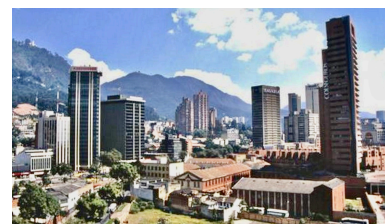
Monday saw us all involved with business meetings... and a final Embassy cocktail party to meet the local dignitaries. On the Wednesday a few of us (Including myself) were driven down to the port city of Valparaíso for discussions and lunch with port authorities.



Valparaíso

The next morning involved an early 7am flight over the Andes to Buenos Aires – snow-capped mountains seemingly closer than flying over the Alps – followed by short hop to Montevideo. Then a 3 hour flight to Rio de Janeiro and the 11 hour long-haul overnight flight to Amsterdam and, not forgetting to pick up Jean, on to Geneva and finally, home.

But, it was not over completely.



Bogotá

Some 6 months later I was out in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, manning a Water Exhibition stand or British Water International for a working week when I received a fax informing me that the Columbians had finally decided to use my expertise. They wanted me to spend a week with them advising on the setting up of a water training facility in Bogotá...immediately! The British Council had agreed to pay my fare, and on the Saturday I was to fly to Bogotá via

Tokyo, Los Angeles and Mexico City.

So by the following weekend, having completed my Columbian Report, I flew back to London via Paris to complete a full circumnavigation of the World in 14 days!

Peter Sowrey

Post Script

And **Jean** chips in,, at this time of choosing a new Prime Minister ,with this advice for politicians, taken from a friend’s poem:

Polite and orderly we should be, love and integrity you should see,
Truth and intellect we should command,
Courteous and statesmanlike we should stand.
When we can bring all these to our lives
Then we shall make Politics - Something that's nice!

Just a thought - —

Be sticky

Consider the postage stamp. Its usefulness consists in its ability to stick to one thing until it gets there.

More memories as THE TOWIE TWYNES

I had my dear friend, Gladys , and her husband up for an afternoon recently and we had a right good blether reminiscing about times past when we were out entertaining as THE TOWIE TWYNES. We called ourselves that because we weren't twins and at our advanced age could hardly be called quines.

To put you all in the picture Gladys and myself decided to enter the Gordon Talent Competition way back in 1991 at Inverurie Town Hall, we did a piece called Examination of a Witness by Dufftown Scott, Gladys playing the counsel and myself as the local yokel witness. We did not win, but had lots of fun and were asked to take part in the next year's competition.



This time we decided to make up our own words and called it The Audition and ended it with performing The Bold Gendarmes. Well this time, much to our surprise, we won, and what a night that was followed by newspaper reports, photo taken outside His Majesty's and interview with Robbie Shepherd and then to crown it all we filmed with Scotland The What in Towie Church for their New Year programme. My Gladys already knew their pianist, George Donald, having attended Gordon Schools, Huntly at the same time.



From then on we put together little comic turns such as Bingo, Turra Show, The Joggers, Line Dancing, Hospitals, The Gypes , Barmaids, Millennium Bugs, Coupla Swells, Royal Wedding and entertained at many senior citizen meetings. Gladys would tell stories and also played the harmonica while I did monologues and silly songs. On these outings we were very lucky to have May Keir join us who played keyboard and accordion and Liz Cowe who sang and accompanied herself on her guitar.



The Gypes



Coupla Swells



Silver Lining



Royal Wedding

Unfortunately poor Gladys suffered with a very sore shoulder and had to have it operated on so we decided then that the Towie Twynes would retire from performing and be ever so thankful for all the years we spent together having fun entertaining. We recalled doing a Burns Night at the Boat Inn, Aboyne for St. Thomas's funds, but cannot remember the date.

Eileen A. Davies

Wedding Blessing and Baptism



I was delighted last year to be able to write of Beth and Will's lockdown marriage in spring 2021 having sadly been forced to cancel two Scottish weddings on Deeside due to the pandemic.

July 2022 and finally, what a wonderful service! Vittoria blessed Beth and Will's marriage and baptised baby Caeleb, their new addition. Both celebrations finally being able to be enjoyed with an abundance of loving family members and friends and delivered in such a warm and relaxed atmosphere. The hymns were played by Sheila Maxwell, Beth's musical accompanist from her school days.

The baptism was very special with a union of St Thomas's and St Kentigern's. Vittoria performed the baptism at the altar with a wooden font bowl. The wood was taken from a fallen tree in the grounds of St Thomas's and skilfully made into the receptacle by Eddy Horton.

The day was completed by a reception at Glen Tanar Ballroom, a wonderful location which impressed the numerous guests from the south of England and beyond and further enhanced their first visit to Royal Deeside.

Jane Farthing

*The wooden font bowl
made by Ed Horton*



Personel Baptisms

Caeleb Berry was baptised in July at St Kentigern's

Alistair Rawson is to baptised in August in St Kentigern's

Theo Mellett is to be baptised in August in St Thomas'

Aurora Deakin is to be baptised in September in St Thomas'

Please pray for these children and their families

Wedding Blessing

Beth and Will Berry had their wedding blessed in St Kentigern's in July

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

Diamond Wedding

Carol and her husband Ian celebrated 60 years of happy marriage in July.

Please pray for them as they continue in their life together

Kimhan Fennell, great-grandchild to Mary Fennell, was baptised in St Kentigern's at the end of May

The Christening was on May 29th, followed by a reception at the Deeside Inn. We decided to do it in Ballater because of long-standing family links and especially so that Great-Grandma Mary could be a part of it without expecting her to travel.

In attendance were Kimhan, his parents from North Wales (me and his mum Fai), paternal grandparents, Great-Grandma, godparents Nick and Cate from North Wales, honorary uncle Blair from Canada, Thai friends Wee, and Ainarin and family (all living in Aberdeen), Ballater's Sabine Muir, and tuning it remotely via Facebook were his other godparents Rachel (also from North Wales) and Jed from the Philippines.



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.

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Pastoral Cards for the sick or bereaved

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

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

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

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

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WEB-SITES

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

St Kentigern's Web-site is:
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

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 September 13th

CONTACTS :

Treasurer
Secretary
Lay Representative
Vestry Members

Sacristan
Youth Leader
Child Protection Officer
Chalice Bearers

ST. KENTIGERN'S

Marcus Humphrey
Sabine Muir
Hilary Mutch
Joy Harvey
Margaret Jaffray
Amanda Kentish
John Lovie
Hilary Mutch
Anne Richardson
Anne Richardson
Roger Searle. Mary Fennell, Marcus Humphrey,
Joy Harvey, John Richardson, Michael Adie

ST. THOMAS'S

Secretary
Treasurer
Lay representative
Vestry Members

Organist and Publicity
Child Protection Officer

Sacristan and Altar Guild

Irene Legge, Daphne Laing, Jo Elson

Chalice Bearers Warren Burgess, Peter Sowrey

Flowers Jill Binns
Rector's Warden Daphne Laing
People's Warden Warren Burgess

(Maintenance Officer)

Patron Michael Bruce

ST. NINIAN'S

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

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Michael Adie John Lovie

