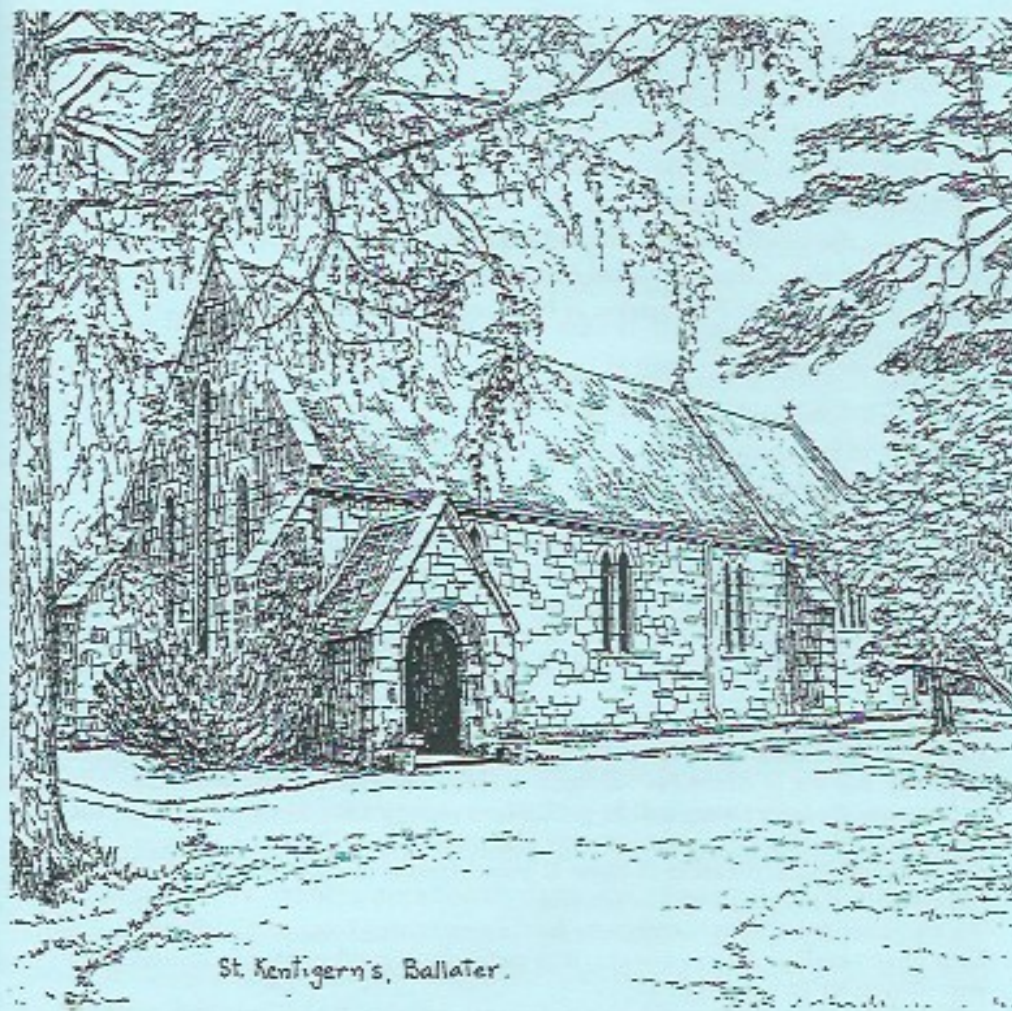


The Deeside Tattler

February and March 2023



St. Kentigern's, Ballater.

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



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

5th February Candlemas

9.30am, Christingle Service for Candlemas, St Kentigern's

11.15am, Christingle Service for Candlemas, St Thomas

19th February, 2pm Hot Chocolate Walk to Pannanich

22nd February, Ash Wednesday

11.30am, Holy Communion and Ashes, St Kentigern's

6pm, Holy Communion and Ashes, St Thomas'

28th February, 7.30pm First session of Lent Course, at the Rectory

4th March, Diocesan Synod

9th March, 7.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry meeting

19th March, Mothering Sunday

2nd April, Palm Sunday

9th April, Easter Day

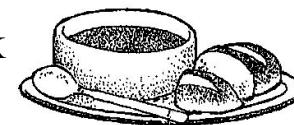
From the Editor: We are now in the depths of winter, and it is good to look beyond the dark skies and icy pavements and enjoy the various stories and memories from members of our congregations. Looking back to last year, things are very different now - no trying to sing while mask-wearing, and no isolating from each other. The report about our Carol Service brought it into focus, with the joyous singing by all, including a choir!

But a good thing that has come out of it is our increased and easier use of the internet to spread our work to more people, and make things more readily available to us all. The use of Zoom has become a useful addition to our communications, as for instance the Lent Group will be available to more people, bringing in those who cannot come in person. And importantly, the services at St Thomas's are now being recorded and made available to those at home, thanks to a lot of work by Warren. Hopefully St Kentigern's will follow suit.

We are grateful to all our contributors for the quality they bring to this magazine. Do keep them coming! And as always, it is particularly good to receive articles from new writers, so do have a go! **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

I am sat in St Thomas' writing this, away from distractions of phone, doorbell and internet. The soup is bubbling away in the slow cookers, and the tables are set to welcome anyone who might appear. I must confess, by the time Christmas came, I was fed up of the sight and smell of soup, having been making it twice a week in Advent – but I seem to have recovered from that. Soup tends to be universally comforting, whether it is leek and potato, chicken, or – the best type of soup in opinion – fridge soup. What, you may ask, is fridge soup. Well, fridge soup – in the Hancock household, anyway – is made of whatever is in the fridge that needs using up, from veg that is perhaps looking a little elderly, to the remains of last night's casserole. This year I had Christmas lunch delivered to my door by a friend. And very much appreciated it was as well. But there was enough left over turkey, veg, and pigs in blankets to go into a soup the following day. It was wonderful. The problem with fridge soup is that you can never quite repeat the recipe, delicious though it might be.

Anyway, it is back to the soup making. Why is soup so comforting, and so satisfying to make? I think it provides warmth to body and soul. It is satisfying knowing that things are not going to waste – good for using up odds and ends. It is wonderful to come into the kitchen to the aroma of soup. But I think what I appreciate most about soup is that it can be stretched to fit however many people you want. It fulfils a need inside me to do something practical for others. One of my great pleasures in life is feeding people. Most of the time I can't be bothered to cook for myself. But for other people – it's wonderful. I like expressing my love in practical ways. I like the premise of hospitality that says 'if I've got it, you can have it – and if it doesn't look like enough, we'll make it stretch.'

Part of this is how I was brought up – it was and is very much the policy of my parents that if you sit still long enough you'll be fed. That food can be stretched (the only problematic meal is chops, but even that can be overcome). It doesn't only extend to food – if there is something you need, or something practical that needs doing and they can do it, it will be done. It is a practical outworking of their calling as Christians to serve others. It is their way of showing hospitality. My parents are not the most social of creatures. You won't find them at pubs and clubs. But their home is an open home. Anyone is welcome. From hospitality comes welcome, and through welcome they are loved.

This is how our churches should be, as well as our homes. They should be a place of hospitality and welcome. Places that gives warmth to body and soul. I think that sometimes where we struggle to welcome is in our services. I am not speaking of how we welcome people into our building, or how accepting the congregations are. But how welcoming and hospitable is the format of our worship to those from outside? Our music? Our teaching? What does our worship tell people about our God? What can we do to improve these areas?

We are good at offering hospitality and welcome in very practical ways – snow-digging, soup making, supportive phone-calls, offering lifts, tea-making. We are good at helping others when we see – or are told – what the need is, if we are capable of fulfilling that need. What does our practical service tell people about our God? How do those two pictures slot together?

As we head into the season of Lent, I encourage you to stand back, to examine your life and your worship and to ask – 'what does this say about God to any looking on?' Is this the message I want to communicate? Through hospitality and welcome we love and are loved.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

Christingle Service

This year we are holding our Christingle services on the 5th February, when we will be celebrating Candlemas, that great festival of light. Candlemas marks the formal end of the Christmas Season.

Midweek Communion

14th February 2023, 11.30am, St Thomas'

Lent Communion

St Thomas', 11.30am, Tuesdays 28th February, 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th March
St Kentigern's, 11.30am, Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th March

Lent Course – this year's 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, starting on Tuesday 28th February. 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.

Lent Appeal 2023

Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance



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. Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance responds, on average, to two time-critical emergency call outs every single day. They are a national charity and receive no statutory government funding, so rely 100% on donations from the public to fuel their life-saving flights. Since they launched in 2013, they have been on 4590 call outs. They can reach 90% of Scotland's population within 25 minutes of taking off. They operate 12 hours a day, 365 days a year. The average cost of a flight is £2,500.

As an example of how much things cost : £5 could buy a single use, heat-resistant blanket that would help to protect a patient from hypothermia. £10 could buy a heat pack that would be used to help stabilise the body temperature of a trauma patient, increasing their chance of survival. £50 could buy a traction splint that would help to decrease the pain and damage caused by a fracture, improving their recovery.

Tom Steele, Chairman of SCAA, welcomed the expansion of their service: "On April 3rd 2020, SCAA was proud to launch our second charity air ambulance - Helimed 79. Based at Aberdeen Airport, Helimed 79 doubles our capacity and allows SCAA to deliver more care, more quickly to more people across Scotland. And none of this would have been possible without the support of the people of Scotland."

Hot Chocolate Walks

What, you may be asking, is a hot chocolate walk? A hot chocolate walk is a gentle stroll to somewhere or some point of interest, with flask of hot chocolate in hand to enjoy when at the midpoint of the walk. 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.

We had a hot chocolate walk on 15th January to celebrate St Kentigern's (St Mungo's) Day with a walk out to view St Mungo's Well at Bridge of Gairn, followed by a sit-down and hot chocolate at the little ruined chapel there.



Vittoria will be walking again on 19th February, from St Kentigern's to the old loggers camp at Pannanich and on 26th March from the Raebush junction to the old Celtic cross at Loch Kinord (meet at the junction). 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 hopefully be on Sunday 18th June.

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

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 every week over Lent (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 be a member of the church in any way. Please come and join us and enjoy some company and some warmth.

Carol Service at St.Thomas'



Once again Sheila Maxwell and the St.Thomas' Augmented Choir under the direction of Lucy Bailey, gave us a lovely evening of carols, one of which, Come Worship the King, Sheila had written herself. Although the choir was smaller than usual they certainly made up for it, and It was good to hear the Tenors and Bases in good voice as well as the Sopranos and Altos. Marcus Marsh sang a lovely solo verse from the carol In the Bleak Midwinter by Christina Rossetti.

Sheila kept us on our toes with her short introductions as we sang many well known carols, ending with my all-time favourite Hark, the Herald! The singing ended with the choir giving us its traditional finale of Figgy Pudding, and thereafter we all got together to enjoy the mulled wine and splendid buffet, rounding off a most memorable evening; congratulations all round.

Marcus Humphrey

Note: For those who are not in the know, the 'Figgy Pudding' is our pet name for 'We wish you a merry Christmas.' It gives the choir a lot of pleasure to sing this rousing piece directly to the congregation, to thank them for coming and sharing with us.

Sheila

Events at Aboyne-Dinnet Church



1. Rainbow Sale - Saturday, 11th March - 10:00 - 12:00: we are planning a bric-a-brac/pre-loved clothes sale, sorted according to colour. This will be a fun event and an opportunity to pick up a bargain.

If you have items which you would like to contribute, please email Sarah at aboyne.wright@btinternet.com or Christa at christa.markham@btinternet.com and we can arrange collection.

2. Daffodil Tea - Saturday, 1st April - 10:00 - 12:00. 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!



Recording of services at St Thomas's

The services are now available on the St Thomas's YouTube channel - all you need to do is do a search on YouTube for the words St Thomas Aboyne, and it appears with a listing + thumbnail picture for each service. You will see an option to 'Subscribe' and if you click on that, it will list all videos for St Thomas at any time - and there is no need to email a link to folk.

There is also a direct link to the YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@st.thomaschurchaboyne>

WarA Cruise across Central Europe - part 4

Our arrival in Germany was through the Schlogener Schlinge, with pretty villages at the water's edge and the inevitable Abbey or Church looking down on the village, until we came to the charming town of Passau. Here we arrived just in time for an organ recital in the cathedral on its very special organ, which until a few years ago was the largest in the world but has now been superseded by an even bigger one in a mall in the USA! The organ has 17,974 pipes and 233 stops; the cathedral itself is beautiful and is more Gothic than Baroque which was a nice change from all the other cathedrals we had seen recently!



The organ in Passau Cathedral

We then moved on to Regensburg where we had a lovely guided tour of the old city which contains an enormous Gothic cathedral with a Baroque altar which is unusual. The architecture in the old city is really lovely and walking through the streets you realise how powerful and wealthy it once was. The city also has one of Europe's oldest stone bridges that has spanned the Danube since the 12th century. Luckily the city was not bombed in WW2. In the evening we left the Danube as we entered the Rhine-Main -Danube canal on our way to Nuremberg.

We set off in the morning to see the area where Hitler held his infamous Rallies. It was in a terrible state and I cannot understand why it was not all pulled down and either left bare or rebuilt as a stadium with facilities for the young. The concrete stands are falling down and covered in weeds, it is just so unsightly and a horrible reminder of what happened there; we could not wait to leave the place. We drove on to take a look, from the outside, at the building where the trials were held in Courtroom 600; a very fine building which is still in use today as a Courthouse.



Albrecht Durer's house

On by coach to the historic centre, modern Nuremberg is very disappointing with pretty awful architecture. The old city is lovely with many houses saved from the bombing, but it is up and down steep hills, all cobbled and it was a very hot day, so one or two of our passengers found it tough going. We saw Albrecht Durer's house, not totally destroyed by the bombing and rebuilt to its former glory, and as we moved further into Germany we became aware of the Protestant influence and the change in religious denomination amongst many churches such as St. Sebaldus, which was formerly Roman Catholic and is now Lutheran. Our lecturer on board had given us a very good lecture on Durer



and also what she referred to as "Green Men", which are stone facial carvings with foliage growing from them. I went back to St. Sebaldus church with her where we found a good many, and they can also be found in churches in the UK.

We sailed on to Bamberg and discovered why it is a World Cultural Heritage Site declared by UNESCO. Endearingly also known as the "Frankish Rome" as it was built on 7 hills a thousand years ago, it is beautiful right from the start, all commercial building is hidden from sight or down by the canal. The streets of the modern town are narrow and have lovely buildings, it reminded me of some of our very picturesque English villages.; fortunately it was not bombed during the war which helped to preserve it. Our excellent local guide marched us up to the top of a hill where we saw this wonderful square, enormous and no cars allowed to park there which is so sensible. There is a 4 towered Cathedral there which is so peaceful inside, not Baroque but we did find one green man. The houses are half timbered with Baroque facades but not over the top.

On our way down the hill we saw the magnificent Rose Garden in front of the Bishop's Palace, laid out quite beautifully and with individual labels! Here the population is 50% Roman Catholic, 25% Lutheran and 25% Protestant. The splendid Town Hall or Rathaus sits over the divided river with its half timbered walls and beyond is the former fishing village known as Bamberg's "Little Venice".

We returned to the ship to leave the R-M-D canal and enter the River Main on our way to Wurtzburg. Our arrival there was later than expected as we were held up going through the many locks, as barges with grain etc. have priority and we had to wait our turn. We had a fascinating lecture on Stone Masons, and because it was so hot, 35C and rising, the walking tour was cancelled and instead we were coached around the city to the main sites. The whole of



The Rathaus in Bamberg

Wurtzburg was obliterated by the RAF in 1945 except for the Residenz which lies slightly outside the city. We visited the Residenz, home of the Prince Bishops in former times and now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is vast, and we saw the impressive "Europa" ceiling fresco by Tiepolo, and the staircase by Balthasar Neumann, which reminded us of the one in the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.

On our way to a wine tasting in the cellars of the Residenz, we saw an extremely over decorated Baroque room and some exquisite coloured china chandeliers from Hungary. Refreshed by the wine tasting, we emerged from the cellars to a temperature of 38C!

Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey



BASS NOTES

Memory Lane

Strange, isn't it how memories can be triggered?

I recently read an article in the press about fishermen on Lindisfarne, of which more in a moment. Just the word 'Lindisfarne' did it for me. I know this is a church magazine, but I did not at once think of the Lindisfarne Gospels. You can research those for yourself.

No, those of you of a certain vintage may remember the 70s Newcastle rock and folk band Lindisfarne – much hairiness, wide trousers, a folksy sound and peculiar clothing. See below – as they were in their heyday. Try their album *Fog on the Tyne*, and, if time is short, listen to *Meet Me on the Corner* as a starter or memory jogger. Easily found on YouTube. You won't be disappointed.



But it's not the musical Lindisfarne I want to write about; it's the island itself, which lies a mile or so off the Northumberland coast and is separated from the mainland by a tidal causeway. In the early 1970s, when the world was younger and possibly more innocent, I was a member of a mixed working party of International Voluntary Service (IVS) volunteers who spent a week one summer helping to tidy up the grounds of a struggling care home in Alnwick, Northumberland. It was a week of great conversation, international contacts and hard physical work. The highlight of the week was a day trip to Lindisfarne and was my first ever visit there.

I say 'day trip', but this was a self-made trip. As none of us had much money, it involved taking the local bus from Alnwick to the village of Beal, from where we walked to the tidal causeway, trudged across it, noting the tide times, ignored the various historic sites on the island and its mead, walked on the beach right round the island, stopping inevitably to light a fire, drink beer, eat sandwiches, sing songs and make a noise. We finished by walking back across the causeway, minutes before it was

flooded by high tide, and took another bus back to Alnwick. And, you younger folk, we managed all this without the internet. We sought out bus timetables, tide times, maps – all on paper or at the end of a public telephone. That night in our small dormitory several of us made a further visit to the village of Much Snoring, but we slept well.

Anyway, back to those Lindisfarne fishermen, who are protesting about the Government's plan to make the waters off Lindisfarne a HPMA – that is, a Highly Protected Marine Area. Great, you might think. However, the Lindisfarne fishermen – who catch only crab and lobster – have been fishing sustainably for many centuries. They use creels and don't drag the seabed, but would have their livelihood ruined by the Government's proposals which would also damage the economy and destroy the fragile social structure of the whole island (population 180). Dare I say, this can be a problem with big, centralising government anywhere, including here in Scotland where we have heard similar complaints from our west coast prawn fishermen. The fact that Lindisfarne enjoys waters rich with marine life right now suggests to me that their traditional centuries-old way of fishing, without political interference, may have been the right way to do things all along.



Don't take my word for any of this. If you go to the Lindisfarne website (visitlindisfarne.com), you will hear all the details from local vicar, Rev Canon Dr Sarah Hills, who explains the fishermen's case much more eloquently than I can, accompanied by a restless black labrador, who, I was pleased to see behaves just as badly as Archie.

I've travelled to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne several times since the 70s, visited its historic sites, drunk its mead and generally behaved much more responsibly than I did on my first visit. I can still hear the band playing, though.

Eric Sinclair

Comfort

As the new vicar in the community, I tried to have a friendly word for everybody. And so even while I sat in the reception area of my doctor's surgery, I felt 'on duty'. Just then a woman rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the room. As she went to the receptionist's desk, the man sat there, alone and silent.

I was thinking I should make small talk with him when a little boy slipped off his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair. Placing his hand on the man's, he said companionably, "I know just how stupid you feel. My mum makes me ride in the pushchair, too."

Plan ahead

It wasn't raining when Noah built the ark. – *Anon*



Readings for February and March 2023

5th February Epiphany 5 CANDLEMAS	Malachi 3:1-4 Hebrews 2:14-18 Luke 2:22-40	Susan Smith	The Rider Family
12th February Epiphany 6	Deuteronomy 30:15-20 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 Matthew 5:21-37	Hilary Mutch	Carol Simmons
19th February Epiphany 7	Exodus 24:12-18 2 Peter 1:16-21 Matthew 17:1-9	Margaret Jaffray	Meg White
22nd February ASH WEDNESDAY	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	N/A	N/A
26th February Lent 1	Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11	Anne Richardson	Isabel Wilson
5th March Lent 2	Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17	Sabine Muir	Anne Harper
12th March Lent 3	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42	Stanley Ewen	Sue and Warren Burgess
19th March Joseph of Nazareth Mothering Sunday	2 Samuel 7:4-16 Psalm 89:1-4, 26-29 Matthew 1:18-25	Sabrina Humphrey	Carol Simmons
26th March Passion Sunday	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45	Hilary Mutch	Meg White

Ash Wednesday, 22nd February: Holy Communion with administering of the ashes
11.30am at St Kentigern's; 6pm at St Thomas's

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

St. Kentigern's, 9.30am

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

St. Thomas's, 11.15am

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

Sunday Club

St. Kentigern's, Ballater

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

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

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

Young Church at St. Thomas's

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

Morning Worship at St. Thomas's *(on the first Sunday of the month)*

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

5th February:
A light in the darkness

5th March – A visit in the night

Dawn light, starlight, divine light.

Slowly the sky brightens, clouds thin,
birds wake, children stir,
the earth warms, the baby cries,
the light shines.

Starlight, silver light, shapes and shadows,
the way long, uncertain, treacherous,
weary travellers reach the child,
the light shines.

Divine light gleams, glimmers, glows,
dimmed by fears, doubts, grief.
Through the tender mercy of our God,
on all who dwell in darkness,
the light shines.

Carol Simmons

From the Bible, for the young and not so young

The birth of Moses

Moses climbed the mountain. God gave him two stone slabs with the contract on them.



Over Christmas, we celebrated the birth of Jesus, and a strange story it is, involving a birth in a stable, a manger to lie in, and visits from the shepherds and wise men.

We now turn to another odd story, of the baby Moses, who became an important prophet and leader of the people of Israel, and who received from God the 10 Commandments that we still know today. He lived many centuries before Jesus.

Moses was one of the Israelites, who until shortly before his birth had been living very happily in Egypt. They had left their home because there was a terrible famine, and were welcomed by Joseph - who also had an interesting story, told in the book of Genesis. Joseph was now like a deputy under the Pharaoh, as the King was known, and so was able to offer the Israelites a home - and food.

This was fine while Joseph was alive, but he died, and then came a new Pharaoh who had not known Joseph, and he took a dim view of all these people of Israel doing so well, and perhaps being a threat to him. So things changed.

First the Egyptians turned them into slaves who would work hard for them, and ill-treated them. But they still flourished, and the Pharaoh was now really worried. He decided there were too many being born, and instructed the midwives that if the baby was a boy, he was to be killed. The midwives were horrified at this, especially as they 'feared God', so they saved the babies and pretended they had been born before they arrived to help. Exasperated, the Pharaoh told the Israelites that any male babies must simply be thrown in the river, while the girls could be kept.

So this was all happening when Moses was born, to a man and his wife of the house of Levi, which was part of Israel. And they saw what a lovely baby he was, and hid him so that he could be saved. But by the time he was three months, this was getting difficult - babies do not stay quiet! So in desperation, they decided to take a risk, and put him where he might be found and kept safe. And it worked!

We all know the story - a special basket was made of bulrushes and covered with pitch to make it float safely, the baby Moses was placed in the basket and it was left among the reeds at the river. He had an older sister who was very anxious about all this, and she stood at a distance to see what happened.

And along came the Pharaoh's daughter, just as they had hoped. She had some maids with her and was coming to bathe in the river. But to her surprise she found the basket - and when she looked inside there was a baby crying! She realised it was one of the children of Israel, but we are told she had compassion, and no doubt picked the baby up and cuddled him.



Then the sister came up and offered to get help in looking after the baby. She brought her mother, and the Pharaoh's daughter arranged that she would take the child and nurse him until he was a bit older. So she got him back home! But this was only for a short time, as when he was old enough, he went to the Pharaoh's daughter and was brought up as her son. And Moses went on to become a very great prophet and leader of the Israelites. You will find his story in four whole books of the Old Testament, starting with Exodus. A remarkable story!

IN PRAISE OF THE NHS

These days one only seems to hear about sad and tragic stories with the NHS, but I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the NHS, ambulance medics, doctor and all the very kind carers and neighbours I have had during my recent mishap.



Well to put you in the picture a few weeks ago I was busy in the kitchen washing up after a baking session for my granddaughter's playgroup and expecting her friend to pop past and collect the baking.

All of a sudden the doorbell went so I rushed out of the kitchen, tripped over something, lost my balance and went CRASH, BANG, WALLOP into my piano which floored me and there was I unable to get up shouting, "Please come in." Luckily the door wasn't locked so Gemma popped her nose round the door and found me like a beached whale, she summed up the situation very quickly at my white face and asked if she could pop across the road for my neighbour Diana. Well they were frightened to move me, but soon were on to the Doctor, Ambulance and my daughter and after a lot of phone calls back and forth an ambulance arrived, but the medics thought it was maybe just a bruised shoulder so helped me off the floor and gave me a type of sling, but telling me to contact my own Doctor the next day.

Our Pam stayed overnight to help out and managed to get the doctor to call in past. Now the Doctor wasn't sure if I'd broken anything, but could see the situation I was in so got in touch with the carers to help out and on Saturday morning I had three visits a day set up. They are the most lovely kind and helpful people, every single one of them. Then on the Monday morning I was telephoned to come for an X-ray to Huntly hospital, again I was able to get a volunteer driver from Strathdon Silver Circle to take me to Huntly where the doctor there told me I had indeed broken my collarbone and gave me a posh sling to wear for four weeks. I was inundated with kindness by my neighbours and friends and I really appreciated all their visits and help.

Well time moves on and I am almost back to normal having had physio exercises to do and I can only reiterate my thanks to all the lovely people who helped a silly old woman who fell in her own house, friends, neighbours, doctor, carers and family.

My most grateful thanks to you all, very well done NHS.

Eileen A. Davies

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### Dream

Politician: "I dream of a better tomorrow, where chickens can cross the road and not have their motives questioned."



## St Kentigern's Winter Fair



Our annual Fayre, due to have taken place on 10th September, and postponed due to the death of HM Queen Elizabeth, took place on 10th December. It was renamed the Winter Fair. The weather fairies obliged and turned Ballater into a magical winter wonderland. I had to go and wipe the snow off our big sign outside the door a few times, as it kept getting covered with snow and was often unreadable.

Despite the heavy snow fall, we did get a decent number of brave souls through the door. There was a jolly atmosphere with a bit of background Christmas music, thanks to Carole. A few of us were dancing around to the jolly tune of Feliz Navidad prior to the event.



*Jane's Christmas Stall*

We had a beautifully decorated Christmas stall, thanks to Jane and David Farthing, and this was very popular.



*Bottle Stall*

Sabrina and Hilary's cake and candy stall was another great attraction, as was the bottle stall manned by Marcus and Graham

Lots of people filled up the tabled tea area, enjoying a wee blether. Susan Smith and her team did a great job keeping the cups topped up and filling plates with delicious baked goods.

Maggie, our raffle queen, produced a wonderful raffle as usual and as a vegetarian, I was delighted to win a lovely vegetable hamper. What a stroke of luck!



*Raffle queen with helpers*



*Vittoria and Sabine with the Queen's Gift*

The Queen's Gift Raffle, sadly the very last one, was drawn by a little girl called Elaia, who was happy to oblige. The winner of the beautiful set of six crystal sherry glasses was Sabrina, who was delighted to receive it.

I was even more delighted, as I wouldn't have to post the glasses anywhere with the risk of them breaking in transit.



*Elaia helps Vittoria*

I still have flashbacks to opening the box from Buckingham Palace a few years ago, to find one of the glasses had arrived broken.

After I summoned the courage to write a letter to the Lady-in-Waiting, asking for a replacement for the precious donation, I was horrified to find the next one sent up



*Winner!*

was broken too. Eventually they sent another up when the Queen was arriving. The chauffeurs come up first to bring the cars, and luckily one of the chauffeurs brought along one of the glasses to replace it.

So, I let out a big sigh of relief when it was won by a local person - Sabrina!

Despite the weather, we managed to raise just over £2,200, so well done to all involved and a big thank you to all who attended our event.

**Sabine Muir**

## Whitewash

It snowed again today  
Gentle white drifting down  
I sat watching  
As it gradually grew darker  
White outlined against a  
Deep blue sky

As first it seemed to melt  
When touching the ground  
But then one fluffy flake  
Settled  
And was quickly joined by another  
A slow build up  
To a whitewashed world.

*Vittoria Hancock*

## 60 Years Ago - The Sunday Curry Lunch Receipt

As the cost of living soars it's amazing to look back at an album I put together nearly 60 years ago, shortly after Jean and I had left Nigeria.

OK, salaries were considerably lower in those days and costs were proportional, but one item in my album stood out. One of my after-work activities was the running of the entertainment at the company's sports club and along with film nights, tombola sessions and swimming gala's was a monthly Sunday Curry Lunch for about 80 people (including children).

All the preparation – shopping at the local market, cooking, and serving was handled by a group of house stewards for a small extra fee, but a look at the bill presented to me for settlement at the end of the day is startling, to say the least. I show it below:

Peter Sowrey

| VEGETABLES |         |                     |              |      |
|------------|---------|---------------------|--------------|------|
| 33         | cups of | RICE                | 1            | 0    |
| 4          | cups of | GROUNDNUTS          | 2            | 0    |
| 2          | lb.     | ONIONS              | 3            | 0    |
| 5          | lb.     | TOMATOES            | 6            | 0    |
|            |         | RED & GREEN PEPPERS | 2            | 6    |
| 8          |         | PLANTAIN            | 2            | 3    |
|            |         | OKRO                | 2            | 6    |
| 24         |         | BANANAS             | 2            | 0    |
| 6          |         | GRAPEFRUIT          | 1            | 6    |
| 36         |         | ORANGES             | 2            | 0    |
| 4          |         | COCONUT             | 2            | 0    |
| 2          |         | PINEAPPLES          | 6            | 3    |
| 5          | lb.     | POTATOES            | 4            | 7    |
|            |         | DRIED FISH          | 1            | 0    |
|            |         | TOTAL               | 12           | 8 7  |
| 4          | TINS    | CURED FRUIT         | 1            | 1 0  |
| 1          | GALL.   | ICE CREAM           | 1            | 5 0  |
| 3          | TINS    | PUMPKINS            | 16           | 6    |
| 1          | JAR     | BOLST PRAWN PICKLE  | 6            | 6    |
| 1          | TIN     | B.C.L. FAT          | 12           | 0    |
|            |         | TOTAL               | 4            | 1 0  |
| 3          | lbs.    | PINNED BEEF         | 11           | 6    |
| 4          | lbs.    | ROUND BEEF STEAK    | 17           | 9    |
| 10         |         | CHICKENS            | 3            | 15 0 |
| 2          | 002     | EGGS                | 7            | 0    |
|            |         | TOTAL               | 4            | 11 3 |
| 2          | lb.     | FLOUR (Chairman)    | 1            | 7    |
| 1          | TIN     | SALT (Spreen)       | 1            | 11   |
| 7          |         | STEWARDS            | 4            | 0 0  |
| 7          |         | STEWARDS            | 4            | 3 6  |
|            |         | TOTAL               | 4            | 3 6  |
|            |         | GRAND TOTAL         | = 15 - 4 - 4 |      |

## Celebrating Lent

Lent is the period of 40 days (not including the Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter. It's a time of penitence and preparation. The forty days call to mind the forty days that Jesus spent in the desert prior to beginning his public ministry. During this time he fasted and prayed, spending time with God. In his time in the desert, Jesus was tempted by the devil three times – consequently, we remember this as a time to resist temptation, to establish new habits and patterns of behaviour.

Lent is not just an inward time, but a time of looking outwards at how we live our Christian lives in the world. It is also a time to start new things, to give more than we normally give, to spend time with others that we would otherwise waster. It is a time when the fact of being 'in this world, but not of this world' should be highlighted in our lives. alms-giving, prayer and fasting.

## Journey through Lent

There is inside a burning discontent  
 With the status quo  
 The shallow mundanities of church  
 The lack of connection with God  
 And the burning  
 Fans the flames of passion  
 And desire  
 Of longing  
 To become what God calls us to be  
 To be  
 In a place where God is invited to move  
 To excite  
 Where God may reach out  
 And people may be reborn  
 Where the passion and desire  
 Grow stronger  
 Till we ignite each other  
 And the flame burns even brighter  
 And we are purified  
 Made holy  
 The dross burnt off  
 Until we stand in the heart of the flame  
 And remain unharmed  
 Then we stand in the right place  
 With the right focus  
 Our hearts aflame  
 With passion  
 Our eyes focused on God

Vittoria Hancock



## Wedding of Imogen and Callum

Imogen Appleton was christened and welcomed into St Thomas's church by Reverend Kate Gibson many years ago now. As a wee girl attending the church with her brother Regan and sister Beth she especially enjoyed Sue Burgess's Sunday school lessons, the Easter egg hunts in the grounds, the Christingle services and just loved the singing.



Like many young people with an inquisitive, developing mind and a keen sense of adventure those foundations have been a key part of taking her into many areas. Voluntary work with young children from orphanages and kindergartens abroad, a fair trade workshop with schools in the UK, to a conference in Romania and being exposed to that country's childcare system have been some of those great experiences.

Imogen and Callum's recent marriage has opened a whole new chapter of life for them both. Thank you St Thomas's and St Kentigern's for your contribution to those formative years for all my children.

**Jane Farthing**

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## Congratulations

Congratulations to Anne Richardson on her 80th birthday! This was celebrated on Sunday January 15th with her friends at St Kentigern's, complete with Colin the Caterpillar Birthday Cake, made in the shape of a caterpillar!



## Personnel

### Funerals

The funeral of Joy Harvey took place in St Kentigern's in December

The funeral of Annette Brown took place in St Kentigern's in January

*Please pray for their families as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.*

### Annette Brown, as told by her son Iain Brown

My mother told me exactly what she wanted said in her Eulogy and said that the theme of her life was captured in the phrase "pack and follow". By that she meant that much of her life had been spent packing up and moving home to follow first her family and then my father around the world !

She did however eventually tire of the "pack and follow" lifestyle and wanted a permanent home where she could live her own life.



My mother's cousin Joan and her husband Brian had retired to Ballater and my mother realised that life in their village was exactly what she was after. The hills and snow brought back fond memories of her childhood.

My mother bought her house in Craigendarroch Walk about 25 years ago. She was a keen gardener and she worked hard to create a garden which transitioned from a formal layout around her house back into woodland as it rose up the slope of Craigendarroch. My father was still working and travelling continuously from his base in London when he died in 2016 and never got to be a "returning Scot".

My mother loved her life in Ballater and treasured all the friends she made up here. Apart from gardening, she kept busy belonging to the walking groups, the Craft club, the Church, Riding for the Disabled, Probus and many of the other activities that go on in the village. She loved cooking and I don't think she had ever eaten a TV dinner before I came up to help her in December.

My mother chose Scottish wild-flowers to adorn her wicker coffin to reflect her love of both the crafts and the flora of the highlands. My mother also used to come down regularly to visit Allan and I and our families in Oxshott and Brighton. She was also a prolific writer of cards with lengthy, thoughtful messages to celebrate everything which happened in any of our lives. She stayed in touch with friends around the world who she had met during her travelling years and many visited her in Ballater.

Allan and I were in Ballater for my mother's final days. We would like to thank everyone for their companionship and kindness to her and to us. We are still reeling from her sudden and untimely death, and we will miss her hugely!

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**Pastoral Cards  
for the sick or bereaved**

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

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

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

Please consider joining us in the uplifting and essential ministry of prayer. We really need as many as possible to support our Prayer

The next Edition is starting now.  
Please give or send all contributions  
to the Editor,  
or to Anne Richardson at Ballater,  
by March 14th

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

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

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  
Burgess, Peter Sowrey, Andrew Wilson,  
Sue Burgess

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

