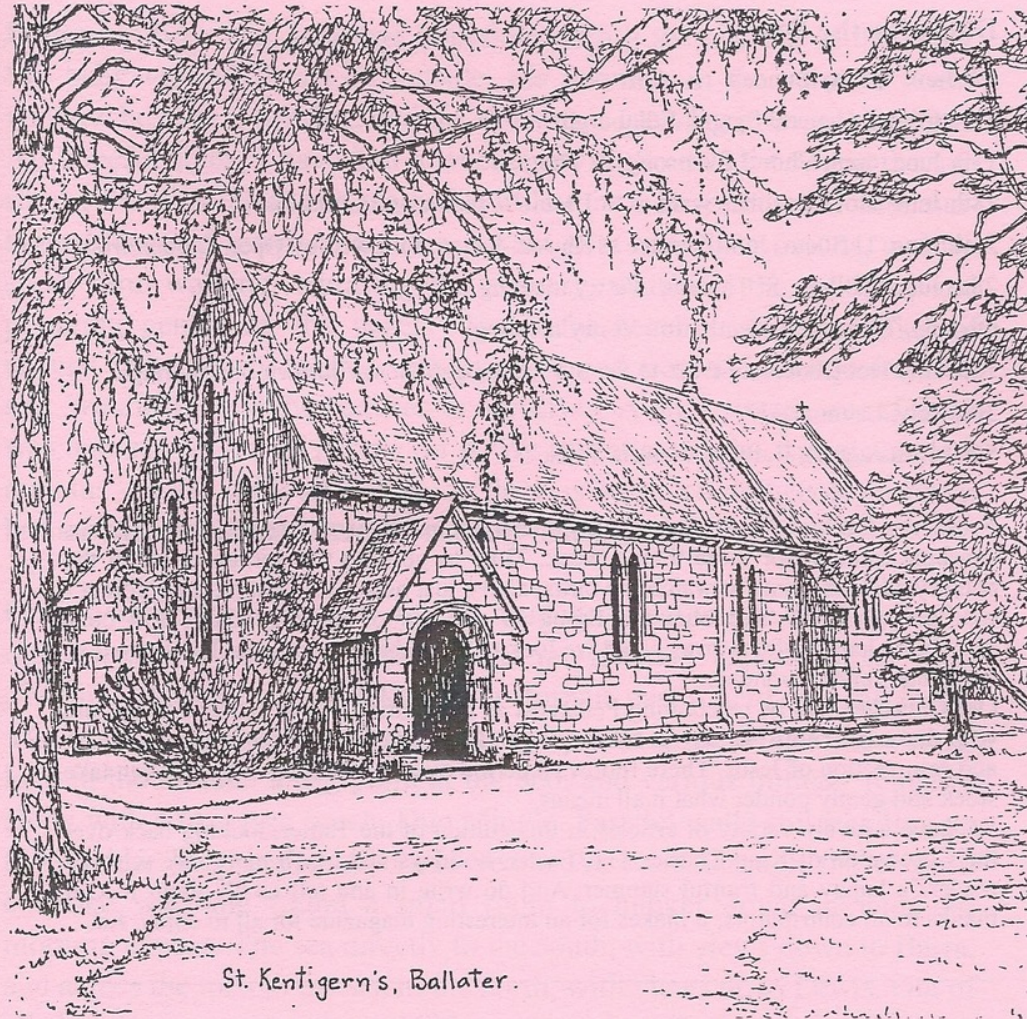


The Deeside Tattler

June and July 2023



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



Rector: Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock
The Rectory, 7 Invercauld Road, Ballater, AB35 5RP
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

4th June Trinity Sunday
8-10th June, General Synod, Edinburgh
11th June, 6pm, Choral Evensong, St Thomas'
18th June Hot Chocolate walk to St Lesmo's, picnic and Compline
25th June, 11.30am, Joint Service at Rhu-na-haven, followed by Open Garden from 2-5
28th June, 7.30pm, St Thomas' Vestry meeting
6th July, 7.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry meeting
16th July Hot Chocolate Walk to the old walled garden at Oldtown of Kinraigie.
30th July, Lammastide
5th - 13th August, Ballater Victoria Week

From the Editor: As we write, the summer seems to have arrived, with glorious sunshine forecast for more than a week. Time to get into the garden or enjoy the countryside! And time to watch the birds, active just now with feeding their young - we have great tits and blue tits flying in and out of nesting boxes, and busy blackbirds looking for worms. And we look to God, the Creator, who has formed so many marvellous wonders.

Our Churches will be celebrating Pentecost as this edition of the Tattler arrives, and with that and Trinity Sunday to follow, we end the long story of the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus. There follows a period over the summer when we can take stock and gently ponder what it all means.

We have a lovely variety of articles in this edition of the Tattler, looking back over the Coronation of King Charles 111, Easter, holidays and much more. We wish all readers a happy and fruitful summer. And do write in and tell us all about it. Our thanks to all contributors, it makes for an interesting magazine for all to enjoy. **Ed.**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

Easter has been and gone and hopefully with it the tail end of the snow. My baby vegetables are in outside, the petunias in the summer house window box are flowering, and the rhubarb is growing in every direction. All hopeful signs. I have had a week away in South Uist where the sun shone, the wind blew and we had a little rain. I have returned with sun-tanned face and happy memories. I went with two close friends, and we spent time walking, admiring the scenery, watching the wildlife, and pottering gently on the beach. Wonderful beaches. Twenty miles of silvery white beach, backed with machair, and fronted by turquoise blue sea. We mostly had the beaches to ourselves. A busy stretch was if there was another couple of people on it. We investigated the various ancient remains – a bit difficult not to, as there is so much archaeology. From bronze age roundhouses to 18th century blackhouses

On one particularly blustery day we headed out across the machair to the most westerly point of South Uist, an isthmus called Rubha Aird a'Mhuile (Arduile). We walked from Bornais past a herd of cows to the Viking remains, then continued on to the promontory, which has a small loch in the middle, a trig point at the end, and various military remains, along with a Iron Age broch, Dun Mhuile. Parallel walls still standing up to shoulder height after all these years. We went through the original entrance way and found a small room to hunker down in with our morning cuppas. The sea directly to the south, with views down to Barra, and across the loch to the sea in the north, with views up to Lewis. Out of all the places we saw, the wildlife we experienced, that morning is one which ranks in all our minds as one of our top three experiences – sitting in a Iron Age broch drinking our morning cuppa, sheltered from the wind and the elements.

It is odd what remains in your memory or strikes a chord with you. The broch had been built in the Iron Age, had later had a Pictish roundhouse built within it, and later still a small settlement built near it. The Vikings had chosen the area to settle – the name for their place, Bornais is from the Viking meaning the fort (borg) on the promontory (ness). The small settlement of Bornais is still lived in today. It is an area which has been continuously occupied for over 2000 years, possibly longer. Imagine the stories which have been told and handed down. Where do the beginnings lie? Where do stories end? Did the coming of the Picts and then the Vikings mark a new start, or was it a more gradual integration? It is the stories of the people, told in the stones, which catch the imagination.

Despite living in our more scientific age, the power of story still holds strong. The story of Christianity and its church was written down in the Acts of the Apostles as early as 70 AD. But Christianity was transmitted mostly orally for many centuries – witness the Mediaeval mystery plays. It was transmitted through the stones of the buildings, and the people who entered those places. Through the stories of the saints, through ancient hymns and prayers, still said today. For 2000 years, this story has been told. It is a story which is still being added to today.

On the last Sunday of May, we will retell the story of the birth of the church, as we celebrate Pentecost together. We will become ourselves part of that great story of faith.

Part of our task as Christians is to tell the story of faith. To communicate the truth in ways which are understandable. In ways which are relevant. In ways which call both heart and mind together. In ways which are evidenced by how we choose to live our lives. The story of faith continues to be written in our lives, and shared with those we meet today.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

Mid week Communions

Tuesdays , 13th June, 11th July, 11.30am, St Thomas'
Thursdays , 29th June, 27th July, 11.30am, St Kentigern's

Soul Soup Lunches

Soup for the body, company for the soul. These lunches will continue into the summer at 12pm on midweek communion days. If it gets really hot it might change to salad lunch not soup! 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.

Hot Chocolate Walks

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

We are planning a walk on Sunday 18th June to St Lesmo's, leaving later on in the evening from the car park at Glen Tanar, and culminating with a picnic and then Compline in the chapel.

We will also be walking on Sunday 16th July, from the square in Tarland up to the old walled garden at Oldtown of Kincaigie. This route has a hill, but we will take it slowly and steadily!

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

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Lammastide

The word Lammastide comes from an Old English phrase that translates to 'loaf mass.'

It is an old holiday that celebrates the harvest of the wheat crop for the year, and it is the first harvest festival of each year. It marks the beginning of autumn, and it is a time for people to come together and celebrate the abundance of crops. In early Christianity, the first loaves of the season were blessed by the church during mass.

Lammastide will be celebrated in our churches on Sunday 30th July, and can be expected to be an interesting mix of two ancient services, as we celebrate Matins along with it.



St Barnabas the Encourager

We will be celebrating Barnabas at the Choral Evensong on Sunday 11th June in St Thomas'.

The story of St Barnabas is found in the Acts of the Apostles. He was, according to that book, a Cypriot Jew, and was one of the prominent disciples in the early church in Jerusalem. The book of Colossians describes him as a cousin of St Mark the Evangelist. His original name was Joses or Joseph, but when recounting the story of how he sold his land and gave the money to the apostles in Jerusalem, the Book of Acts says the apostles called him Barnabas. Acts 4:36 explains the name as "son of encouragement" or "son of consolation". He joined with St Paul on his missionary journeys, travelling with Paul on several journeys. He was known for his defence of converts to Christianity, defending them from those who would have had them follow Jewish law. He was part of the Council of Jerusalem in 49 AD, and went on to be a successful evangelist to the Gentiles. He is traditionally seen as the founder of the Cypriot Orthodox Church, and, it is believed, martyred at Salamis on Cyprus.

As before, the Choral Evensong will take the form of the traditional Prayerbook service, a service for all, led by St Thomas's Augmented Choir. This has about twenty members, and will be conducted by Lucy Bailey again.

The Choir will sing a simple version of Psalm 23 based on a chant by Thomas Morley. They will also sing the great Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E flat by Charles Wood, and an anthem. There will be four well-known hymns for the whole congregation, and the usual readings from the Bible, all chosen to be relevant to the story of Barnabas. There will be a short address by the Rev Canon Neil Brice, who will be visiting us that day and has kindly offered to make this contribution.

Everyone will be welcome at the service, which is one of the musical highlights of the year. There will be light refreshments afterwards and a chance to socialise together.

A prayer remembering St Barnabas

Dear Father,

As we come to this beautiful time of year, the month of June, we thank you for the wonder of your creation and the way our spirits are lifted as we see all around us the freshness of a new summer.

This month we remember Barnabas, whose name means, *child of encouragement*. He was a good person, full of the Holy Spirit and faith. Lord, help each of us to be a *Barnabas* to someone today, to encourage and lift up, led by your Holy Spirit and full of faith.

Help us to share your love and goodness, especially with those whose circumstances are difficult. Help us all to trust you through good times and testing times, knowing you are always with us, always encouraging us, always faithful.

In Jesus' name. Amen

(By Daphne Kitching, from the Parish Pump)



Coronation celebrations at St Thomas's

St Thomas's members celebrated the Coronation of King Charles 111 in their own joyful way.

It started on Coronation morning at 10.00am, with a ten-minute ringing of the Bells by Warren - two bells, one after the other.

On Sunday, the church was decorated with glorious flowers arranged by Jill, as well as lesser offerings around the church. Our service started with 'God save the King', included 'I vow to thee, my country', before losing its informality, with a talk by Sue leading to the Crown, and a full-throated

singing of the hymn 'We will go out with joy'. The whole service was prepared by Vittoria, but ably led by Sue in her absence.

Then the Bring and Share lunch started, red, white and blue tables were set up in the side aisle by Pearl and Margaret, and people tucked in to the copious variety of goodies provided by themselves to share. Also included was a cake specially for Pearl, who was celebrating her birthday that day!

Thanks are due to all who helped to make this a special day of celebration.

Sheila Maxwell



Praying for King Charles at his Coronation

How can we pray for our new King Charles 111, as he approaches this important event? Paul says: 'I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.' (1 Timothy 2:1,2)

Easter Vigil, Saturday 8th April 2023

The Easter Vigil is an old tradition which Rev'd Vittoria Hancock introduced to Aboyne in 2015. Since 2017 St Thomas' Church and Aboyne-Dinnet Church have taken it in turn to conduct the short service. It is always a moving celebration proclaiming the risen Christ. This year was the year Aboyne-Dinnet Church invited the community at large to come along. What we could not envisage, however, was the fact that our minister, Rev Frank Ribbons, would be out of action following an accident and that Rev'd Vittoria Hancock would not be able to attend due to having caught the Covid virus. Anne Harper saved the vigil, with strong participation from Rev Andrew Wilson.



Within this vigil a bonfire is lit, which symbolises the light of the risen Christ. One remembers the story of Jesus' death and resurrection and shares the peace of Christ with those around, proclaiming that Christ is risen.



As always, the vigil starts outside at the bonfire where the liturgy is read.

The Paschal Candle is lit from the newly kindled fire. Everyone around the bonfire is given a candle



The Paschal Candle is taken into the church, with the congregation following in a procession, stopping three times to proclaim that the Light has come.

Once in church the handed out candles are lit, and the service continues.



After the vigil there was plenty of time for fellowship. Everyone went into the Church Hall where coffee, tea and frankfurter sausages in a bun were served. Biscuits were also available.

If you have never been to one of these services, I can thoroughly recommend to you to go next year.

Christa Markham

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News from Aboyne -Dinnet Church

The Community Life Group have arranged another Ladies Breakfast, which will take place on Saturday 1st July, from 10.00am, in the Church Hall on Huntly Road. Our speaker will be Evelyne Baikie on the subject 'for the sake of the birds and the bees'

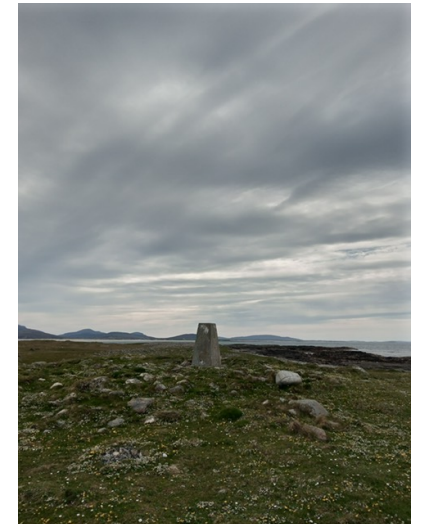
Cost will remain at £5, and you are asked to book beforehand.. Contact: christa.markham@btinternet.com or Tel 86562. Booking will be confirmed immediately

Beauty of South Uist

Vittoria has been on holiday!



Admiring the view



The most westerly point of S Uist

These boots have done enough walking for now. But they did go a long way!

A Cruise across Central Europe - part 6 (final)

Our ship sailed on to Rudesheim for our next visit in glorious sunshine to Vollrads Castle. the Greiffendau residence since the 14th century, and where the making of wine can be traced back to 1211, making it the oldest winery in the world. The castle is in amazing order with some fabulous furniture tapestries, glass, etc. and of course we had a wine tasting, if a little early in the day. The original owners of the Estate sadly died out in 1999 owing millions to the local bank, who took over the estate and the running of the vineyard so it is in safe hands now! We then had the final concert by our singers in a lovely room in the castle, with performances from Purcell, Mozart, Bizet, Gershwin and Britten. They specially sang the Champagne song from Die Fledermaus at Marcus's request, but no red roses today!



Vollrads Castle



The Lorelei Rock

Back to the ship for lunch, then a magical cruise down the Rhine with castles on both sides and of course the Lorelei Rock. The Rhine is very narrow in this part, and used to be very dangerous until some rocks were dynamited, but still not easy navigation as the current is very strong. There are lovely towns, villages and imposing castles on both banks, so it was an extremely beautiful journey. We were amazed



Pfalzgrafenstein on the Rhine

at how many trains were running on tracks on both sides of the Rhine. Endless goods and passenger trains every few minutes, and what is happening in the UK?!

In the evening we sailed on to Cologne, I was last there in 1948 so expect it will look a bit different. On a glorious sunny morning we set off on a walking tour of the old part of the city. Most of Cologne was flattened by the Allies during WW2 and quite honestly the reconstruction is not up to much. Compared with Warsaw and Gdansk in Poland where these cities were totally restored to a very high standard, the restoration here is nothing like as good. The Cathedral, the largest Cathedral in Germany, is a different story however. The building was not that badly damaged, but is blackened by carbon probably caused by the burning buildings around it in the war. An attempt was made to clean it but the stonework started to crumble, so it has been left as it is, which in some ways is a shame.



Cologne Cathedral

But once inside it is a different story. I have never seen such beautiful stained glass windows. Acres of them and some looking so pristine they could have been put in yesterday. No doubt they were removed during the war and kept safely for the duration. Looking at postcards of the cathedral in 1945 there were certainly windows with no glass in them, and when I was there with my brother and parents I do remember the rubble still beside the cathedral, and we were not allowed inside the building as it was unsafe. I also remember the wide promenade beside the river with no one on it, now it is full of cyclists and you cross at your peril! In the afternoon as we sailed for Amsterdam, we had an excellent lecture on the Black Death, not as morbid as it sounds.



Reliquary of the Three Kings, inside Cologne Cathedral.

We then sailed into Amsterdam where we spent our last morning in the Rijks Museum with a lovely guide, and what a fascinating time we had. We concentrated on the Rembrandt section where we were able to admire a beautiful display and interpretation of The Night Watch. We also saw the most amazing collection of doll's houses; it is such a wonderful museum, plenty of places to sit and we would love to come back. Amsterdam is such a lovely city but you have to watch out for the bikers, they have priority over everything! We then returned to the ship to pack and get ready for our return to the UK early the following morning.

Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey

Rhu-na-Haven Garden Opening Sunday 25th June, 2023

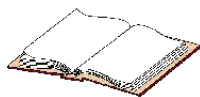
Marcus and Sabrina are opening their garden again on Sunday 25th June, from 2pm to 5pm. It will give those of you who saw the garden two years ago a chance to see how it has developed, and to discuss how climate change, and the lack of snow cover in the winter, is affecting the less hardy perennials. Luckily the garden wall itself took the force of a huge section of an old Beech, felled in a recent storm, so that damage to the garden itself was minimal. We did however lose two climbing roses and a beautiful white hydrangea in the very cold snap in March.

Entry is £5 per person, children free, and if you bring a dog would you please keep it on a lead! There will be plant and cake stalls on a cash only basis, and Maggie Jaffray's team will be providing teas in the Badminton Hall situated in the grounds. Good wheelchair and disabled access.

All proceeds will be shared equally between St. Kentigern's Church, Ballater, and the Cromar Horticultural and Industrial Society.

Marcus Humphrey





Readings for June and July 2023

4th June Trinity Sunday	Genesis 1:1- 2:4a 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	Anne Richardson	The Rider Family
11th June Trinity 1	Hosea 5:15 – 6:6 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26	Margaret Jaffray	Carol Simmons
18th June Trinity 2	Exodus 19:2-8a Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35 – 10:8	Stanley Ewen	Meg White
25th June Trinity 3	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39	Joint Service at Rhu-na-Haven	
2nd July Feast of St Thomas	Habbakuk 2:1-4 Hebrews 10:35- 11:1 John 20:24-29	Hilary Mutch	Anne Harper
9th July Trinity 5	Zechariah 9:9-12 Romans 7:15-25a Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Sabrina Humphrey	Sue and Warren Burgess
16th July Trinity 6	Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:1-11 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Susan Smith	Carol Simmons
23rd July Trinity 7	Isaiah 44:6-8 Romans 8:12-25 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Marcus Humphrey	Meg White
30th July Trinity 8	Deuteronomy 26.1-3, 10b-11 John 6.30-35	Anne Richardson	Isabel Wilson

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

	<u>St. Kentigern's, 9.30am</u>	<u>St. Thomas's, 11.15am</u>
1st Sunday	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion 1982	Holy Communion 1982
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion 1982	Holy Communion 1970
4th Sunday	Holy Communion 1970	Family Communion
5th Sunday	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer (Matins)

Sunday Club

St. Kentigern's, Ballater

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

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

These Services will be advertised when they have been resumed.

Anne R

Young Church at St. Thomas's

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

Morning Worship at St. Thomas's

(on the first Sunday of the month)
This is normally a non-Communion Service, not specifically for children, but they are of course especially welcome. The next services are:

4th June Inspired by the Spirit

2nd July St Thomas

Enfolded in Love

Enfolded in love
As a father held his child.
Prayers said at day's end
For safety through the night.
A precious memory,
God with us.

A lifetime on
Still enfolded in love,
Encircled by the cloud of witnesses,
Watched over by those we love,
United in thanks and praise.
Our constant prayer
Peace in our world.

Carol Simmons

From the Bible, for the young and not so young

Joseph's multi-coloured coat - and after



We all know that Joseph had a multi-coloured coat, his brothers were jealous, and tried to get rid of him. But it is also an inspiring story of good coming out of terrible evil. (Look up Genesis 37 onwards)

Joseph was the youngest son of Jacob, son of Isaac, brought up in Canaan with about a dozen half-brothers. He was his father's favourite, much resented by his brothers. A special grievance was the coat of many colours that his father bought him. The story goes that one day, the brothers were away tending the sheep and Jacob asked Joseph to go and see that they were doing all right. So off Joseph went in his special coat, easily seen from a distance. His brothers saw him coming, and took their chance to get rid of him. They would kill him, dump him in a pit nearby, dip the famous coat in his blood, and say that a wild beast had got him.

But Reuben, the oldest son, was not part of this, and when he heard of it, he persuaded his brothers not to kill him, but just cast him into a pit and leave him. Reuben thought that this way, he could return Joseph to his father. So they did this, and then sat nearby to have something to eat.

But just then, a group of travellers were passing, and the brothers thought it a good idea to sell Joseph to them and get some money for themselves. They got blood on Joseph's coat by killing a goat instead. They took the coat back to their father and told him their story. Poor Jacob was just devastated, he loved his son so much and he cried and mourned for him, refusing the comfort of his family.

Now the story goes on. The travellers went into Egypt, and sold Joseph on to an officer of Pharaoh's. We are told that 'the Lord was with Joseph', and he prospered there. The officer recognised his talents, and put him in charge of the running of his home and land. He did well and they all thrived, so he became well-respected.

Joseph became known for his interpretation of people's dreams - not always happily. But one day the Pharaoh had a disturbing dream of seven fat cows being followed by seven lean and hungry ones who came and fed on the fat ones. And there was another dream about a stalk of corn with seven ears, fat and well-grown, followed by another stalk with very thin ears, who swallowed up the fat ones. Pharaoh was in a panic. But his butler knew of Joseph, who was called in, heard the dream, and told Pharaoh that there would be seven good years of harvest, followed by seven bad years - and that God Himself was warning him about this.

Pharaoh was much impressed, he put Joseph in charge of the land of Egypt, and Joseph took care to gather the food, and put plenty in store, ready for the lean years. So the land of Egypt would not perish through the famine that was coming.

And so it came to pass - but Jacob and his family in Canaan were not prepared for the famine. They heard about the food in Egypt, and travelled there to try to get help. And who should they have dealing with the matter but Joseph!

They did not recognise Joseph - but he knew them, and eventually, after a lot of complications which are a story in themselves, he made himself known to them. They were appalled to be confronted with him again, and begged his forgiveness - but one of the great things about this story is the generosity and forgiveness of Joseph towards his brothers. He gave them what they needed, and later went to visit his father, who was quite overcome with the news that Joseph was alive after all. He brought his family to Egypt, where they lived happily for many years.

Beware the church microphone

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

Despite my assurances that it was unnecessary, it was kind of you to loan us your sound equipment, so we could experience the advantages of using radio microphones in church. Your assurance that everyone would then be able to hear with absolute clarity seemed to miss the point that everyone does *not* necessarily want to do so.

I have no doubt that members of your congregation hang on to your every word, eager to make sure you remain theologically sound. But for us, those who had blissfully slumbered throughout my sermons for the last 30 years found themselves unable to filter out a single syllable.

Colonel Wainwright decided to change the start of his Bible readings from the customary "Here beginneth..." to "Testing, Testing" before giving the microphone a good biff, which made the verger dash outside to check if yet another medieval gargoye had fallen from the roof. Also, forgetting that microphones pick up asides just as effectively, his own comment to his wife in the front pew "I thought I read that rather well" did nothing for the pride he has always cherished for his humility.

I was also not convinced that the 16th century workmen who had devoted the greater part of their lives reverently carving the Lady Chapel altar had intended it to support an electronic console that would have looked more at home in an aeroplane cockpit.

However, the event which finally decided us against microphones came about an hour after the service. Several of the choir boys had crept back into the church and decided to improvise a rock concert with their guitars and the mikes turned up full blast. The church exploded in a perfect cacophony of noise which panicked a horse and rider going by. The horse bolted down the road, which caused two cars to veer violently to avoid it. One car ended up in a pond, the other in a field, having ripped off a great deal of old fencing.

Your loving uncle, Eustace

(From the Parish Pump)

How things have Changed

In the past one might have heard Jean say "I'm a city girl" or myself saying "I've adopted Newcastle upon Tyne as my home". It's all changed now.... we're both Country Bumpkins!

It's all due to a recent visit to our "home" city last week to celebrate the 100th birthday of one of Jean's relatives. How the city we knew so well has changed since we left!



We arrived successfully at our hotel on the northern side of the Tyne to the West of Newcastle. The next day turned out to be wet and grey, so we decided to visit another elderly relative in South Shields, south of the river and on the East coast. In the good old days when we lived here, it was an easy run over one of the many bridges to Gateshead, then the dual carriageway to the coast.

This time I crossed the first bridge and found a new dual carriageway going east. This led to a new roundabout at which I took the wrong exit, landing back in Newcastle centre. No problem, I said to myself, just use the Tyne Bridge and pick up where you left. I attempted to pass the central station but found the roads blocked by a new traffic flow scheme. Eventually we found the old Big Market and entry to the bridge, but the exit ramp to the bridge was for buses only. Go for the Swing Bridge I told myself, only to find that area was reserved for pedestrians. Getting a little frustrated I aimed past the cathedral to Stephenson's High Level bridge, and with a green traffic light found myself crossing the bridge over nice painted signs staying "Bus Lane". The fixed penalty notice arrived this morning!

Eventually I got on the old familiar road and we reached our destination without further hassle, to find we couldn't make contact (she too is wheelchair bound).

Deciding to get back to our more familiar area (the north bank of the river), I now headed for the Tyne Tunnel to find that the only way to pay was by going on-line within 24 hours of passage. This was one task I completed successfully later that day.

The following day I took Jean into the Eldon Square shopping centre to visit John Lewis and Fenwick's. In the past disabled parking had been free, but I noticed a rather ominous blue sign near the ticket machine and went to investigate. Now the blue badge holders get 1 hour free, and have to enter their registration number and debit card details...needless to say, the machine jammed and refused the card. I think we eventually got it sorted, but until another few days pass, I'll never be really sure.

The rest of our stay passed pleasantly by meeting old friends out of town for lunches, and our long drive, nearly 700 miles round trip, was much eased by use of cruise control and lengthy breaks.

One thing is certain..... we're not doing it again, and isn't it nice to be a Country Bumpkin. We can park anywhere for nothing, live miles away from dual carriageways, never encounter one-way streets or "authorised vehicles only" signs. It pays to live in the country!

Peter Sowrey

Friendship

Being born and bred in Newcastle upon Tyne, it was good to be there and meet up with friends, most of whom are widows now.

Being in a Wheelchair prevents one visiting them at home so meeting them in restaurants was an ideal solution and this we did on two occasions, the last with my best and longest known friend, Dorothy, shown in the photo.



The strangest meeting was with a distant relative from Blackpool, whom I hadn't seen since she was 10 years old. One meeting was with an old overseas friend who actually had a ramp giving access to her house in Morpeth, where we were able to stay for lunch.

My main question was "Have you dyed your hair?" as nearly everyone had gone white

I'll end by saying that it's not often one gets an invitation to a 100th birthday party.

Jean Sowrey

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Labelled

As part of the admission procedure in the hospital where I work, I ask the patients if they are allergic to anything. If they are, I print it on an allergy band placed on the patient's wrists.

Once when I asked an elderly woman if she had any allergies, she said she couldn't eat bananas. Imagine my surprise when several hours later a very irate son came out to the nurses' station demanding, "Who's responsible for labelling my mother 'bananas'?"



Eileen's Tea Party in aid of Dementia UK

This is what our Pam thought of, to raise some money for Dementia UK. and after conferring with her sister, our Gill, they decided it would be better to hold it in our house because we have the room and it would be easier for our friends to get here.

Some of you may know that my dear husband, Barrie, their Dad, is suffering from dementia, but he doesn't realise he has it and even if we told him, he would not remember it.

I was told I did not have to prepare or do anything for the Tea Party, they would bring up all the eatables and prepare all the tables, chairs, dishes etc. and that is what they did. So nice to sit back and be waited on and see my china getting an airing!



Well, it was a tremendous afternoon, one of those Red Letter days. Pam's friend Jilly came up as well with her grandchildren and soon the house was in festive mood with flowers and decorations. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and soon friends and neighbours were popping in and enjoying the company with a cuppa and a fine piece. They were all very generous with their donations in the boxes. Lauren and our great grandchildren came as well as Gemma and her two boys and here are some photos.



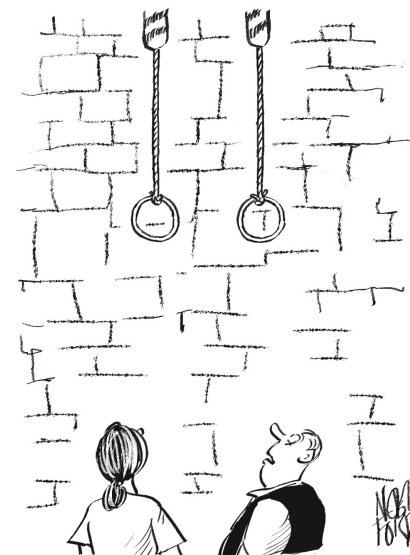
Many folk who couldn't come donated on line and here is the amount we raised £310. Absolutely fantastic wouldn't you say for a very worthwhile cause. DEMENTIA U K. **Eileen Davies**

Mary's 95th Birthday

There was a special celebration after church at St Kentigern's for Mary Fennell's 95th Birthday. Mary was given a lovely bouquet of flowers from the congregation, who stayed afterwards for coffee and cake.

Family members were there, including David and his wife, their son Oliver and his wife, and their little boy Kim who was christened at St Kentigern's last year. And last but not least, David and his wife's newly adopted greyhound also attended, meeting Maggie's Corgi, Taffy.

It was lovely to have so many for coffee, and it was a really happy occasion.



"Apparently, the new member of the bell-ringing team is a keen gymnast"

Teddy's Christening



Three years after the original date for Teddy's Christening, and almost derailed by Covid once again, Teddy, our middle child, officially joined the church family. Andrew Wilson very kindly stepped in to perform the ceremony, and managed to very patiently baptise a reluctant 4 year old (who suddenly decided he did not like water), whilst not getting distracted by Teddy's unruly siblings.

It was also a special day for our eldest son, Archie, who received the bread for the first time during Communion.

Our children have been so welcomed at St Thomas's, with the whole congregation being so loving and tolerant towards us all. Connie, our youngest, will be getting baptised too this Summer- hopefully she will be slightly more receptive to the water and oil than Teddy was!

Katherine Rider

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Oh dear - - - Wrong water

A mother was watching her four-year-old son playing in a small plastic pool half-filled with water. He was walking back and forth with an expression of great concentration on his face, while making big splashes. Suddenly, the little boy stopped, stepped out of the pool, and with a look of disgust, began to scoop the water out with a pail. "What's wrong, dear?" asked the mother.

"On Sunday the minister said Jesus walked on water, and this water doesn't work," he replied.

Congratulations and Commiserations

Funerals

The funeral of Muriel Clark took place in St Thomas' in April
The funeral of Lesley Valentine took place in St Kentigern's in May
The funeral of Jeanne Dunne took place in May

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

Baptism

The baptism of Teddy Rider took place at St Thomas' on Easter Sunday.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jean and Peter Sowrey on their 63rd Wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to Mary Fennell, who celebrated her 95th birthday in May.

Congratulations to Hugh Dawson, who celebrated his 90th birthday in April.

After many years of service to St Ninian's in Braemar, Hugh is now a regular and welcome worshipper at St Thomas's. Although usually fairly quiet and thoughtful, he broke out of the mould on his Birthday, and arrived in a splendid bright yellow shirt, specially bought for the occasion, covered with beautiful butterflies, of particular interest in St Thomas's because of their symbolic reference to the Resurrection. (This will be seen better on the web-site in due course, as it will be shown in colour. Do have a look!)

The congregation enjoyed singing Happy Birthday, followed by coffee and Cake.



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How prayer reaches God

An anxious mother confided in her minister: "My 10-year-old daughter says her prayers every night, but I am not sure they are reaching heaven."

Touched by her worry, the minister spent some time explaining to her about God's omniscience and omnipresence. But still, the mother looked worried. So finally he asked the mother why she thought her daughter's prayers would NOT be heard by God.

She explained: "Because when my daughter finishes, instead of saying 'amen', she says 'click, send'."

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

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Pastoral Cards for the sick or bereaved

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

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

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

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

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WEB-SITES

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

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

St Kentigern's Web-site is: stkentigernsballater.aodiocese.org.uk

Prayer Chain Ministry

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”

Colossians Ch 4 v2

A small group meets for prayer as requested. The group prays for anyone who requires it, which may be for healing, guidance, strength in a difficult situation or for thanksgiving. Prayer can be for yourself or for someone else (with their permission). Confidentiality is maintained at all times.

The group members are eager to be contacted at any time for prayer, visitation or simply for a listening and sympathetic ear.

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

Doreen Ewen Tel 013397 55538

Doreen Ewen (tel 013397 55538)

Important

The Tattler needs you!

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

The next Edition is starting now. Please give or send all contributions to the Editor,
or to Anne Richardson at Ballater, by July 18th

CONTACTS :

Treasurer
Secretary
Lay Representative
Vestry Members

Sacristan
Organist
Youth Leader
Child Protection Officer
Chalice Bearers

Secretary
Treasurer
Lay representative
Vestry Members

Organist and Publicity
Child Protection Officer
Sacristan and Altar Guild
Chalice Bearers

Flowers
People's Warden
(Maintenance Officer)
Patron

Warren Burgess
Michael Bruce

ST. KENTIGERN'S

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

ST. THOMAS'S

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

ST. NINIAN'S

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

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