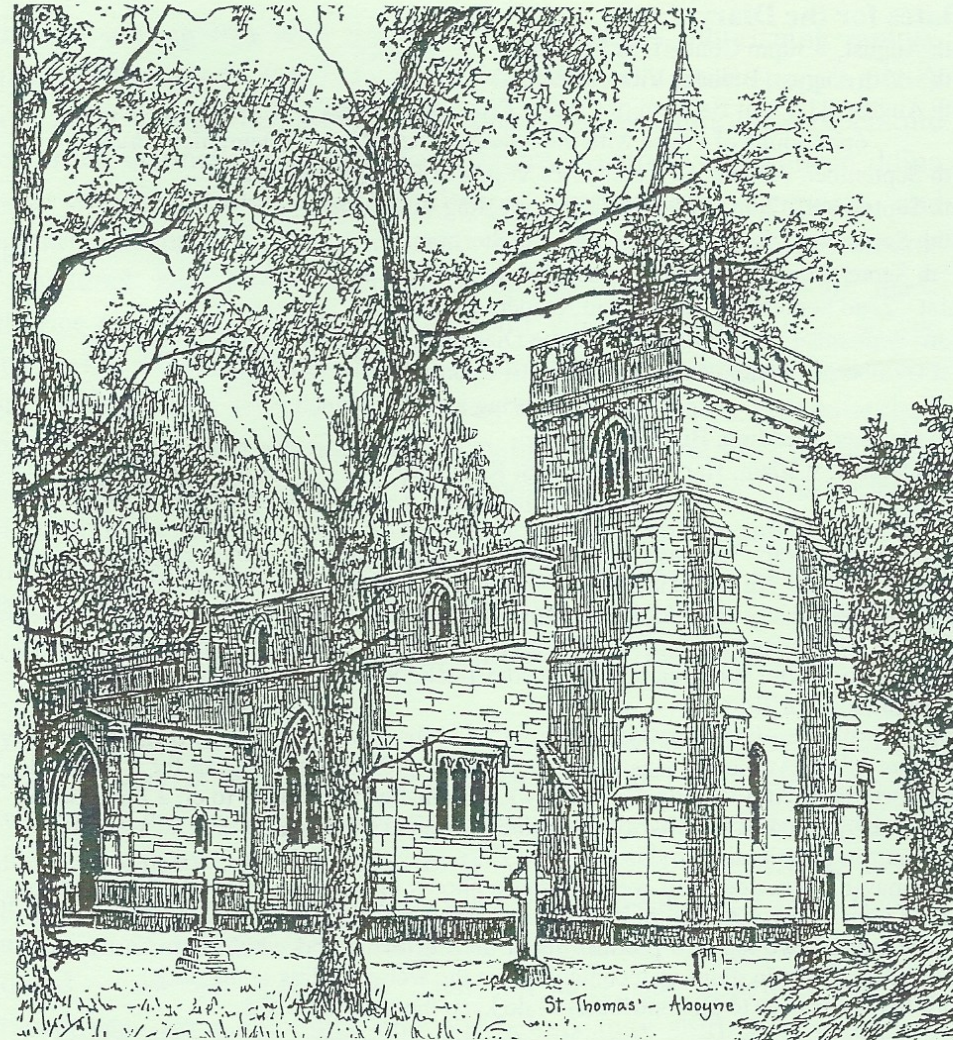


The Deeside Tattler

August and September 2023



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.

Dates for the Diary

4th August, 7.30pm Concert, St Thomas'
5th - 13th August, Ballater Victoria Week
6th August, 11.15am Baptism of Connie Rider, St Thomas'
6pm Songs of Praise with the Salvation Army band, Glenmuick Church
7th September, 7.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry, at Maggie Jaffray's
9th September, 12pm, Dee-Don Group meeting, Inverurie
10th September, 6pm, Evening of Praise, St Thomas'
11th September, 7.30pm, St Thomas' Vestry, at Carol Simmons'
21st - 22nd September, Clergy and Readers Conference
23rd September, tbc, Ordinations to the Diaconate, St John's Church, Aberdeen
1st October, 11.15am, Harvest Service, St Thomas',
followed by bring and share lunch
7th October, Wedding, Birse Kirk
8th October, 9.30am, Harvest Service, St Kentigern's,
followed by bring and share lunch at 1pm

From the Editor: We have some lovely articles again this time. Encouragingly, several of them are reporting events that have been organised by members of our churches, including the Hot Chocolate Walk, an Open Day at Rhu-na-Haven, the Holiday Club's Bug garden, and a Choral Evensong. There does seem to be more activity now, after the dreary years of the Lockdown and restrictions. May we all continue to flourish!

Eileen, who has written several lively articles for us, has excelled herself with an account of her Art course - as a respite from the difficulties of caring for a husband with dementia. And Vittoria has bravely - or foolishly? - arranged to do a Zipglide in September, in aid of the charity Alzheimer Scotland. Perhaps we will all want to do our part, in contributing to this.

You may have noticed that we have more photos in this magazine than we used to have. This is very welcome, it is good to brighten it up with lots of illustrations. Unfortunately we have to produce them here in black and white, but shortly they will be available in glorious technicolour on the web-site (link at the back).

Our thanks as ever to all contributors - do keep them coming! **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

I am sat writing this with a view of my garden – flourishing rapidly, especially the weeds. It is definitely going to need a good chopping back soon. After the last few weeks of sunshine and warmth, the temperature has turned distinctly autumnal. In the rainy weather, I have been doing some experimentation in the kitchen. Spring rolls, samosas and vegetarian sushi. An attempt to somewhat vary my diet and the contents of my lunch box. I tried Vietnamese spring rolls first. They are made with rice paper, so gluten free. Rather odd, since they are opaque, so you can see the filling through the roll. There is no satisfying crunch when you bite into them either. While being tasty when eaten immediately, I have discovered they are not really portable. So moving on, I managed to source some Chinese spring roll / samosa pastry online. The problem with both these items if bought from a shop is the onion content. So I had fun making both home-made spring rolls and home-made samosas. Very tasty they were too. I have discovered that sticky rice is indeed very sticky, and that rolling sushi is more difficult than one imagines.

My tastes have changed over the years, to the astonishment of my parents. I was quite a picky eater as a child and as a teenager. Yet nowadays I am willing to try most things (bar chilli, fish, tripe, and onions). I cannot imagine me, thirty years ago, being willing to try vegetarian sushi, or samosas, or spring rolls. Possibly not even twenty years ago. Sometimes we – and those around us – forget that we are allowed to change and grow. That not only our appetites but our perspectives, our viewpoints, and our beliefs may shift. It is a sign of growth and maturity to say 'I don't know': to say 'I'm not certain'. To apologise for things we may have done or said in the past and to acknowledge that we are all still works in progress.

I am not the same person I was when I came 9 years ago. I have grown and developed. Parts of who I am have become more flexible, and I'm sure other parts have become more fixed and rigid – although I try not to let that happen. Rather like physical exercise, we need mental and spiritual exercise to stretch us, to allow us to be transformed. It can be very easy to relax into the mentality of been there, done it, and to entrench ourselves in the past.

In this season of growth and fruitfulness, where are you growing? Are there parts of your life and behaviour which you need to reevaluate? Parts which need to develop further? What do you need to grow into the person which God sees in you? I encourage you to spend some time thinking, praying, and reflecting.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

Health and Safety Matters

Your Health and Safety officers – Lesley Thomas in St Thomas' and Anne Richardson in St Kentigern's – have been spending time recently updating our church risk assessments. It is a lot of paperwork which you may find irrelevant and boring, and you may wonder what the point of it is. We are required by both the SEC and the Health and Safety Executive to have risk assessments in place, and to take all reasonable precautions to reduce risk.

It is wider than that however. Loving each other means having consideration for each other – including their health and safety. So we encourage you to read the risk assessments which you will find hanging in both churches. If you see anything which you think may be a danger to someone, please mention it to Lesley, Anne or Vittoria. Thank you.

Soul Soup Lunches

Soup for the body, company for the soul. These lunches will continue 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 will be walking on the **20th August** and **3rd September** – destination to be decided! Any suggestions, please let Vittoria know. Taking part in these walks is at your own risk. Please come suitably dressed with appropriate footwear.

June Hot Chocolate Walk

On a sunny June evening a group of walkers from Ballater, Tarland and Aboyne met at Glen Tanar carpark to walk the short but beautiful path to St Lesmo's Chapel.

This partly thatched roofed chapel was built in 1872 by Glen Tanar's owner William Cunliffe Brooks and dedicated to St Lesmo, a holy hermit who had lived locally in the 8th century. Used nowadays mainly for small weddings it was lovely for us to be able to use it for our evening service of Compline.



Before the service we picnicked in the evening sunshine on the grassed area outside the Chapel and had an enjoyable time of fellowship. It was an opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones and to admire the stunning scenery of Glen Tanar.

Our time at Glen Tanar concluded with the ancient and beautiful service of Compline in the candlelit Chapel. Such timeless and spiritual words still so relevant today, and a perfect way to end a special evening.



Carol Birss

Guide us while waking, O Lord,
and guard us while sleeping;
that awake we may watch with Christ,
and asleep we may rest in peace.

Art in Glenbuchat

I have recently spent a lovely weekend break, all due to a very large sum of money I received from the Quarriers. Some very kind soul gave them my name as I am now my husband's carer and I was told to spend it on myself, well, I just did not know what to spend it on, then all of a sudden up came an Art Workshop in Glenbuchat Hall for the 17th and 18th June with tutor, Aine Divine, from 10 am until 4 pm, all lunch and refreshments included. I would never have spent so much on myself, but after arranging our girls to come and keep their Dad company, I put my name down and hoped there would be enough interested folk to make it possible.



Luckily for me, another seven joined in and off I went on the Saturday morning full of joy and anticipation with a smile on my face about a mile wide knowing Barrie was being looked after. I did know some of the ladies, but soon made friends with two more. We were all seated round the hall with the flowers in the middle. Aine gave us a demonstration for a start using brushes only, of a vase of flowers, to get the shape first before adding flowers with acrylic paint or torn out pieces of paper. It was A1 size so very large and here is my first effort after coffee breaks, lunch break etc.

The day passed far too quickly, but I was chuffed with my effort, never having painted without drawing first. At least I had the next day to look forward to.

Sunday dawned and it was so sunny and before we got started Aine said let's go outside and do some Tai chi. Never having done that before, I said OK I'll have a go. But what a laugh, I found I couldn't stand on one leg without falling over, so was given a chair so that I could wave my arms about.

Anyway off we popped into the hall to paint another vase of flowers, concentrating on the table and background. It was so enjoyable and we were treated to a lovely lunch outside. It was just another super day with lots of chats and looking at everybody's paintings, everyone had a different view of the flowers. Aine was very kind with her comments to all of us and it was so nice to try something different.

I feel so lucky to have had such a marvellous time and thank God for all my kind friends and family who made it possible. It certainly recharged my batteries and helped me cope at home.

Eileen Davies

The National Service of Thanksgiving and Dedication of the Royal Honours of Scotland at St.Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh on Wednesday 5th July 2023.



The night before Sabrina and I were due to fly out to our timeshare in St.Lucia, I was more than a little surprised to receive a telephone call from the Lord Lyon, inviting me to take part in the service as an Escort to the Sword Bearer, and that I would be representing the Community of Deeside. Needless to say I was completely overcome at being so honoured and gladly accepted, hoping that I would be fit enough when the time came! Sabrina was also invited to the service with the promise of a good seat. At that time, the identity of

the Sword Bearer was not known, but I was informed that a new sword had to be made as the existing Sword of State, a Papal gift to King James IV from Pope Julius II, was now too fragile to be used. The new sword, known as the Elizabeth Sword, is named after Her Late Majesty, and was designed and crafted in Edinburgh by Mark Dennis and his team.

It wasn't until the end of May that I received further instructions regarding rehearsals as Lyon had been busy with his involvement in the King's Coronation at Westminster Abbey. All those partaking in the Service had to attend a rehearsal at the end of June, under the instruction of the Garrison Commander from Edinburgh Castle, to make sure everyone knew who was doing what, when, and in which direction; it took us three attempts to get it more or less right! But it was 17 minutes too long, and cuts had to be made, such as leaving out a verse in a hymn, to reduce the timing to an hour. The Full Dress Rehearsal took place two evenings beforehand and here I met the Sword Bearer, Dame Katherine Grainger, with whom I immediately got on very well as we are both Oars, and who had been unable to attend the previous rehearsal. The other Escort was 2nd Lieutenant Rosie Coe from Dyce, the youngest commissioned officer in the British Army, and between us we were able to show Katherine what was required of her. We had to do this rehearsal right through twice, (including the Sermon!) before Lyon was satisfied, and also





the BBC with their cameras, the sound and the lighting, as the Service progressed.

The Honours Procession was formed into three “pods”, each led by a Herald and followed by an Archer. First was the Sword of State carried by Dame Katherine Grainger and led by Albany Herald Sir Crispin Agnew of Lochnaw with two Escorts, Rosie and myself, and followed by Col. Piers Strudwick, a member of the King’s Body Guard for Scotland, the Royal Company of Archers. We

were followed by the Sceptre, carried by Lady Dorrian, Lord Justice Clerk, again led by a Herald, accompanied by two Escorts, and followed by an Archer. Finally came The Crown, borne by the Duke of Hamilton and here again led by a Herald (Adam Bruce). The Escorts were the Head Girl of Clydevew Academy and the Head Boy of Balwearie High School, the Archer fittingly being Lord Bruce.

The Service itself had been designed by the Lord Lyon, the Rev. Canon Dr. Joseph J Morrow, in close conjunction with His Majesty The King, who specially commissioned Paul Mealor to compose the Recessional March, The Call of Lochnagar; and who also composed the Gaelic version of the 23rd Psalm so beautifully sung by Joy Dunlop. The King also commissioned the Song of Thanksgiving and Dedication sung by Karen Cargill with the Ayoub Sisters, and approved all the arrangements and those taking part, including Nicola Benedetti and The Honours of Scotland Ensemble who played Soay from the Lost Songs of St.Kilda. He didn’t want it to be too formal, but to be a happy and relaxing occasion, which is why I was allowed to wear the kilt with a tweed jacket.

The Service was due to start at 2:15pm and those taking part in the Procession were asked to assemble in the Signet Library which is very close to the Cathedral, by 12:45pm. Guests such as the First Minister and Sabrina (looking stunning in her turquoise dress and hat) had to be seated by 1:15pm, and were then entertained to a splendid concert of music from Handel to Errolyn Wallen (no, I hadn’t either) until the start of the Procession.



Then at 2:07pm precisely, the senior Herald in the Library

gave the order “Honours Procession – slow march” and off we went, out across the cobbles of Parliament Square, up the ramp and into the Cathedral, making sure that Katherine didn’t inadvertently take out a doorway lighting fixture or some loose wiring with the point of her sword! With all the razzmatazz and publicity leading up to the occasion, and the knowledge that tens of millions of people worldwide would be watching it on TV, I was of course quite nervous that something might go wrong, but a surge of adrenalin on going into the Cathedral put me at rest and the Sword was duly placed on the Honours Table, followed by the Sceptre and The Crown. Us Escorts then retired to our seats, between the Choir and the Honours Ensemble, but behind a huge stone pillar which restricted our view of the proceedings somewhat, though I could see The King and Queen and most of the Royal party behind them, and the Honours Table.

The seemingly endless rehearsals paid off, the service went perfectly and what a beautiful service it was, with such lovely and appropriate music. I had to lead the Honours Procession out at the end and had to get the timing right to link in with our Herald, and all went well so that we were lined up outside the West Door for The King and Queen to take their leave. I was right beside the Heralds who were on the steps, and as The King got into his car, having thanked the Clergy and the Lord Lyon, he caught my eye and gave me a quick smile which made it all worthwhile. Later that evening, at a party in Archers’ Hall, The King said to me “You were marching in time to the music!” He never misses a trick and will be an excellent King.



Yes, the protesters in the corner of Parliament Square, half of whom were I believe bussed up from London, made a lot of noise which some heard in the Cathedral, but at least they didn’t throw any orange paint, nor did they spook the horses of the Household Cavalry. The Almighty chipped in by providing a beautiful sunny day, everything went well, and I was pleased that both my Archer sons had also been involved, Edward on the Arrival Parade and Garden Party (where he got soaked!), and Simon on the Guard of Honour at Holyrood Palace. It was a huge honour to be part of Scotland’s history.

Marcus Humphrey July 2023

Ballater Victoria Week

Ballater Victoria week takes place this year from 5th to 13th August. St Kentigern's will, as usual, have a scarecrow – Sabine is plotting and planning again. The church will be open during the week for any visitors to wander in and have a look. On the 6th, the Salvation Army Band will be at Glenmuick Church for the ecumenical Songs of Praise, and on the 13th we are hosting the Ballater Victoria Week communion. service.

Visit to church organs in Deeside



Members of SHOT at St Thomas's, with organist Sheila Maxwell

All Church Organists are delighted to show the organ they play Sunday by Sunday to any visitor! Thus I was very pleased to hear from Canon Vittoria that SHOT (Scottish Historic Organ Trust) would be visiting Upper Deeside and proposed to visit St. Kentigern's on 24th June. The Harrison organ at St. Kentigern's dates from 1955 and was regarded by SHOT as historic at the age of a mere 67 years. The organ started life as an exhibition instrument to "fill in" while the Westminster Abbey 4 manual was being rebuilt and the temporary organ was trialled by Dr Barrett-Ayres head of Music Department, University of Aberdeen. Dr Barrett-Ayres was very impressed by the sound of the organ and believed it to be ideal for Kings College in Aberdeen. Thus, in the fullness of time, this little Harrison organ replaced the 3 manual organ in Kings College but, after over 40 years service in Kings College, it was considered rather out of date tonally for prevailing musical taste. The Harrison was replaced by a 3 manual Aubertin organ built in Northern France to Dr. Roger William's specification (he became the next head of the Music Department in the University of Aberdeen).

The visiting SHOT members, 15 in number, were very keen to hear the former Kings College organ in its new home since its installation in 2007. At exactly 10.30am they assembled to see, hear and play the modified Harrison organ. The leader of the group, Alan Buchan, invited me to introduce the organ and to outline the changes made by Sandy Edmonstone Jnr to squeeze the organ into the available space. The organ has 2 manuals the lower being the Great (unenclosed pipes) and the upper being the Swell with the pipes being in a box fitted with shutters. I explained that the Swell organ now incorporated 2 stops from the previous St. Kentigern's organ and the 2 rank mixture was transferred to the Great. The former trumpet stop was redundant (considered too loud) and the organ builder, David Loosely, added it to the organ at Hilton High Church, Aberdeen. As for the Great organ, the original 3 rank mixture was taken over by the late Sandy Edmonstone and its final resting place is

unknown. The 2 rank Swell mixture now works well in the Great chorus and contains a tierce which adds a reed like quality. A later addition to the great was a Chimney Flute at 4 foot pitch (octave above) installed on a small clamp soundboard. The pedal organ has a Bourdon and Bass Flute from the original St. Kentigern's organ and the Harrison Clarinet 16' reed remains. The other pedal stops on the original Kings College organ were omitted.

After my preamble, I invited the group to play the organ and the first to play was Alan Buchan from Cullen. He gave a brilliant performance, without printed music, that explored all the stops in depth.

One by one the other members played prepared music usually from photocopied manuscript. The members admired the sounds available despite the lack of a solo reed. They agreed that the organ was excellent for accompanying congregational singing and provided soft sounds during Eucharist from the strings derived from the previous 1907 organ. We said good bye reluctantly but the tight schedule meant that the group had to be at St. Nathalan's without delay!

After St. Nathalan's they went to Glenmuick to hear their excellent unaltered Forster and Andrew's tracker action organ. Thereafter the group travelled to Braemar to hear the new organ at St. Margaret's which has lovely casework and 3 stops. Finally they went to St. Andrew's to hear the Willis 2 manual organ installed in 1903 and they greatly admired this tracker action organ.

Stanley Ewen, Organist at St Kentigern's

News from Aboyne-Dinnet Church

Aboyne-Dinnet Church will once again have a gazebo at the Games on 5th August. Please come and say "Hi" to those who volunteer at the stall. There will be a table with children's craft activities.

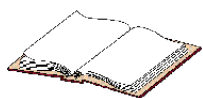
A Ladies' Breakfast in the Church Hall on Huntly Road is planned for Saturday, 2nd September, when Alison Hodgetts will give a slide show entitled 'Quirky and Fascinating China'. Community Life Group is pleased to tell you that the ticket price of £5 can still be held. Contact Christa on Tel.: 86562 to secure your place.

Aboyne-Dinnet Church will take part in this year's **'Doors Open Days 2023'**. On 16th September our church and hall can be explored between 10:00 and 16:00 hours. Visitors will be able to see and experience things that are normally not for viewing! The vault underneath the church will be opened to visitors for the first time since 2015. In the hall you can play table tennis, or enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.

On 7th October, Helen Jackson will speak on the subject of **'The Book of Deer Project'**. Everyone is invited to come and book a seat at that **Ladies' Breakfast and Talk** at the usual time of 10:00.



Inside St. Kentigern's organ. The pipes in the foreground belong to the Sesquialtera



Readings for August and September 2023

6th August Feast of the Transfiguration	Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14 2 Peter 1: 16-19 Luke 9: 28-36	Susan Smith	Jill Binns
13th August Trinity 10	1 Kings 19: 9-18 Romans 10: 5-15 Matthew 14: 22-33	Margaret Jaffray	Anne Harper
20th August Trinity 11	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 Matthew 15:(10-20),21-28	Anne Richardson	Isabel Wilson
27th August Trinity 12	Isaiah 51:1-6 Romans 12:1-8 Matthew 16:13-20	Hilary Mutch	Meg White
3rd September Trinity 13	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Romans 12: 9-21 Matthew 16: 21-28	Sabine Muir	Sue and Warren Burgess
10th September Trinity 14	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Romans 13: 8-14 Matthew 18:15-20	Sabrina Humphrey	Rider Family
17th September Trinity 15	Genesis 50:15-21 Romans 14:1-12 Matthew 18:21-35	Stanley Ewen	Jill Binns
24th September Trinity 16	Jonah 3:10 – 4:11 Philippians 1: 21-30 Matthew 20:1-16	Marcus Humphrey	Isabel Wilson

Mid week Communions will take place on:

Tuesdays , 8th August, 12th September, 11.30am, St Thomas'

Thursdays , 24th August, 28th September, 11.30am, St Kentigern's

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

St. Kentigern's, 9.30am

St. Thomas's, 11.15am

1st Sunday

Morning Worship

Morning Worship

2nd Sunday

Holy Communion 1982

Holy Communion 1982

3rd Sunday

Holy Communion 1982

Holy Communion 1970

4th Sunday

Holy Communion 1970

Family Communion

5th Sunday

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer (Matins)

Sunday Club

St. Kentigern's, Ballater

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

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

These Services will be advertised when they have been resumed.

Anne R

From Psalm 24

The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

For he hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods.

Who shall ascend unto the hill of the LORD? or who shall stand in his holy place?

He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.

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.

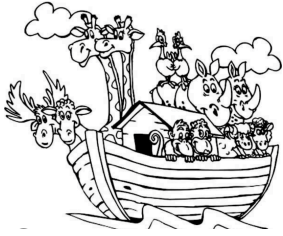
The next services are:

6th August Change

3rd September Walking with God

From the Bible, for the young and not so young

The story of Noah and his Ark



We all know the story of Noah's Ark, and the animals that came in two by two. But what was it all about?

We need to go back to the creation story, when God created the world, first the light, then the waters and earth, the plants, the fish and birds, the animals - and finally man was made in His image. On the seventh day, God rested, looked at it all, and saw that it was very good.

But things went wrong after a while. Adam and Eve had disobeyed him and were driven out of the Garden of Eden. They had children, who in turn had their own families, so the population grew, but there was a lot of violence and wickedness in them, which grieved God greatly. He wished He had never made man on the earth, and decided to get rid of them all - in a flood.

However, Noah was a righteous man who 'walked with God', and he decided to save Noah and his family, and start again with a new population. So he told Noah that there would be a flood, and he was to build a large Ark, for himself, his wife, and their three sons and wives, as well as two of each living thing, one male, one female. God gave a lot of detail as to how it should be built, in three storeys to have room for everyone, and also food of course.

Sure enough, the rain came down, water covered all the land, and the Ark, with all the people and animals on board, rose up safely on the water.

And there they stayed for a very long time, months, we are told. Eventually the water started to go down, and Noah sent out the dove to see if there was any land. But after a while, the dove just came back to the Ark. Another week went by, and the dove was sent out again, returning this time with an olive leaf - Hooray, dry land was appearing at last!



The dove returns

But it was still a few weeks before it was dry enough for them all to leave the Ark. Then God spoke to Noah, telling him to leave the Ark with all his family and the animals, and 'be fruitful and multiply'. The earth would be filled with living people and beasts once more. And Noah built an Altar to God, who in turn made a covenant or promise that He would not destroy every living thing again. As long as the earth remained, there would be seedtime and harvest, summer and winter, day and night, and all would be fruitful and prosperous. It looked as though everything was going to be good and flourishing, as God intended in the first place.

We all know that it did not turn out like that. Certainly the people flourished in their own way, but it was not God's way, and He was grieved again. But He kept His promise and did not try to get rid of them. Instead, He founded a series of patriarchs and prophets, starting with Abraham, who was of course descended from Noah. And this finally led to God giving His own Son Jesus, as a last attempt to rescue the human race from its wrongdoing. And it is this Jesus whom we still worship today.

Open Day at Rhu-na-Haven

A Service was held in the garden behind Rhu-na-Haven on one fine but very windy morning in June. Being outside in the lovely grounds, it did of course have a nature feel and theme, with suitable hymns and reading. It was shared by people from St Kentigern's and St Thomas's, including a very well-behaved family of small children.



Vittoria led the service, with Sheila on the keyboard - and Sue holding on to her music against the wind!



This was followed by a picnic for those who wanted to stay on.

The Walled Garden was open to all in the afternoon, and many people arrived to admire the garden and its wonderful plants and beautiful colours - and take away some of the plants that Sabrina had potted up and cared for lovingly.

(These photos do not do it justice, but they will appear in colour on the web-site, to be enjoyed in all their magnificence)



And of course there were teas and cakes in the Badminton Hall, with a team of willing helpers. The photo shows the Hall, decorated for the occasion, with Carole bringing tea to some of the visitors.



The proceeds were divided equally between St.Kentigern's and the Cromar Horticultural and Industrial Society.

Choral Evensong: an appreciation and review



When the group of enthusiastic singers came together on 11th June to sing a Service of Choral evensong, the Augmented Choir of St Thomas's Church rose to the occasion with its usual enthusiasm and careful rehearsing.

As a choir we are so grateful to Sheila Maxwell our organist and accompanist and Lucy Bailey our director and conductor for their patience and skilful encouragement that brings us from the first sight of the music to the final singing, as a confident and well rehearsed choir.

Sheila did much to facilitate the augmented choir by rewriting parts to suit the balance of the voices in the choir, given the small size of the men's section compared with the sopranos and altos of the ladies. On this occasion, however, the men were blessed with the additional voice of Lucy Bailey's brother Mark, who gave us extra depth and tone in the basses. The final result was a beautifully balanced sound that filled the sanctuary at the Evensong.

Given the fact that the majority of the augmented choir are not regular singers of Choral Evensong, the music of the sung Preces and Responses in the 'Durham use' led by The Rector, Vittoria Hancock, were ably tackled and set the framework for the service. The 23rd Psalm, adapted by Sheila Maxwell from Tune VIII by Thomas Morley, was a lovely setting for these best known words in the Bible, and the *Magnificat* and *Nunc Dimittis* in E Flat Major by Charles Wood were especially well sung by the choir and appreciated by the congregation. The 'Glorias' were truly glorious, and the message of the songs of Mary and Simeon were told confidently and were beautifully sung.

The short anthem by John Rutter, 'Thy perfect love', gave a change of tone in its mellow mood of reflection in a 15th century devotional poem:

*Jesu, my love my joy, my rest, Thy perfect love close in my breast
That I thee love and never rest; And make me love thee of all things best,
And wounde my heart in thy love free,
That I may reign in joy evermore with Thee.*

Four stirring hymns had been chosen for choir and congregation to sing together, from 'Hills of the North rejoice' to the rousing, 'O for a thousand tongues to sing.'

The readers at the service were Anne Harper from St Thomas's and Lorraine Ribbons from Aboyne and Dinnet Church of Scotland. Lorraine and her husband the Reverend Frank Ribbons are soon to move from Aboyne following his retirement from ministry at Aboyne and Dinnet linked with Cromar Church of Scotland. We wish them God's kindly blessing in their retirement, especially after the trauma of the past months following Frank Ribbons's accident. They have both given so much to our communities in the past 12 years and we take this opportunity to thank them.

The address, on the theme of Barnabas, since the 11th June was the Feast of St. Barnabas, was given by the Reverend Canon Neil Brice of Shetland, a friend and colleague in the ministry with our Rector, Vittoria. Barnabas was known as 'the apostle of encouragement'. The address helped us all to reflect on the 'encouragers' who have been such blessings in our lives and how we can use opportunities that come our way to be encouragers to others.

The beautiful choral postlude, *Hail, gladdening Light*, an evening hymn from the 3rd century Greek Church, sung to music by John Stainer, brought a moving and memorable service of Choral Evensong to a close and summed up the intention of the whole act of worship:

*Now we are come to the sun's hour of rest,
The lights of evening round us shine.
We hymn the Father, Son and Holy Spirit divine.*

Following the service, fellowship over delicious hospitality provided by St Thomas's Margaret Nicoll and Pearl Reid was much enjoyed.

Isabel and Andrew Wilson

Wild flower meadow at St Kentigern's

Well, calling it a meadow might be a slight exaggeration. But for the second year running we have left parts of the grounds at St Kentigern's un-mown. Last year we had lots of long grass and a few flowers. This year the ground has blossomed into a meadow, with buttercups, daisies, harebells, clover, dandelions, yellow rattle, mouse-ear hawkweed, fox-and-cubs, oxeye daisies, vetch, blue pimpernel, and yarrow, among other plants. The grass will be cut down in the autumn months to give the ground time for regeneration.

We have our new seats now firmly in place, so you can sit and watch the world go by either at the front of the church, or tucked around the side in the quiet corner.



Youth Today and Yesterday

An article in the Daily Express recently caught my attention. It stated that 1.7 million school children had vanished from the register and were not attending school. The writer said her daughter was amongst them and couldn't or wouldn't get out of bed.

It struck me that in our youth, matters couldn't have been more different. I believe that I didn't miss a day of schooling after having my tonsils removed at age 6, and that weekends and school holidays were always packed with activities, sometimes timed to the minute.

In our album cupboard I dug out some ancient school notebooks covering my activities for the last three years of schooling in the early 1950's and re-read what I had got up to in my spare time. It took my breath away!

In 1952 (age 15) I was lucky to spend 3 weeks in Switzerland staying with friends of friends near Zurich. I travelled on my own by train from Edinburgh exploring everything I could, not even wasting several hours in London between trains. Then the boat train to Dover and across France. Once settled in with the family in Forch (near Kunsnacht), I was off again, cycling, swimming, exploring.. even taking the tram on my own into Zurich on several occasions. My second week there was taken up by



Peter at Jungfrauoch

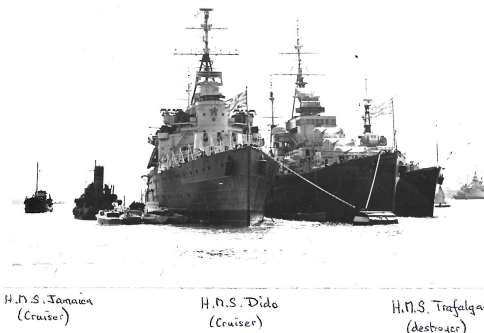
a tour of Switzerland with one of the younger members of the Swiss family and we stayed either with relatives or at Youth/Ski Hostels across the country, travelling by train, post bus, lake steamer and cable car. The last week culminated in a trip to Jungfrauoch – the highest station in Europe at 11,000ft - involving getting up

at 5am, taking a train to Interlaken, taking the tour and returning to Zurich at 10pm, all on my own.

In 1953, two days after we'd broken up, I was boarding an overnight train for London and Portsmouth for a weeks Naval training with the CCF (Combined Cadet Force). With a free day in London I managed to fit in breakfast at the Union Jack Club, swimming in the Serpentine Lido, and a visit to the News Theatre, before joining others for the trip to Portsmouth. From then on for a week it was all go... uniforms and



My Swiss Family



HMS Dido at Portsmouth 1953

hammocks issued, then mess duties, cleaning ship, whaleboat practice, visits to HMS Victory, RN School of Physical Training, Portsmouth Navy Day's exhibits, seamanship, etc, even a picnic on the Isle of Wight.



With Granny in Rhos-on-Sea

George Watson's Boy's College, at the Scottish Industrial Sport's Association Camp at Dalguise. There was no relaxation here...sleeping in tents, cooking and cleaning again, clan team games, filmshows and singsongs, treks into the hills in pouring rain, talks by Tom Weir and the BBC Hutman. Challenges every day but never a dull moment. And then it was all over and the Headmaster of Fettes gave me a lift home to Edinburgh.

Two days later I took the SMT express bus to Glasgow to spend a couple of days with old school friends from my years at Glasgow Academy. But my holidays were not over yet; Three days later I joined my family for a caravan holiday at Elie in Fife, travelling this time by train. This final week enabled us to explore Crail, get soaked by torrential rain, sunbathe on the beach one scorching day, and do lots of local walks. Then it was back to School!



Peter at Dalguise Camp

In 1954, after I had left school and was searching for a Student Apprenticeship, I remember going on a Scottish Youth Hostels sailing holiday round the Firth of Clyde on a three-masted schooner, staying at Youth Hostels overnight. This particular trip ended in disaster when we were ship-wrecked as a result of a violent storm, causing us to hit Pladda Rocks off the southern tip of the Isle of Arran and having to be rescued by Campbeltown lifeboat. My parent's read about it in the daily paper before I got to a telephone. A great start to my planned sea-going career!

Life in those days was a lot simpler. There were fewer cars on the roads; buses, trams and trains were cheap to use. We walked and cycled a lot. There was no TV, so reading and listening to the wireless were the norm. There were few telephones (no smart-phones!) so contact with parents was minimal. But I wanted to travel....to explore....to find out more about my country. I couldn't possibly stay in bed when there was so much to see and do!

Peter Sowrey

Holiday Club making a Bug Hotel for the Quiet Garden



Several children came to St Thomas' to help make a "Bug Hotel" to put in the quiet garden and encourage more visitors of the creepy crawly kind.



An old cupboard was converted with straw, leaves, grass, cardboard, pine cones and other natural materials, and topped with bark and turf.



The children then made signs to advertise the hotel, and were delighted when we returned outside to find our first resident - a spider!

Go and take a look and see what you can find.

The Quiet Garden

We have a restful seat, given in memory of Michael O'Connor by his wife Rhona. and the tree was planted some ten years ago in memory of former church and choir member Sue Dennis, by her husband Alan.

The work is ongoing - who knows what else will follow?



Congratulations and Commiserations

Funerals

The funeral of Lesley Valentine took place in May

The funeral of Rosemary Dunn took place in July

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

Baptism

The baptism of Connie Rider will take place at St Thomas' in August.

Congratulations

Megan Linney has achieved a First in her Physiotherapy Degree

Anne and John Richardson's granddaughter

Many of our Congregation will know **Megan**, our Granddaughter, as she came to Ballater as a baby for many holidays, coming regularly to St. Kentigern's and was confirmed there by Bishop Bob, August 2013, and now living here in Ballater with her parents Gillian and Mark.

On Monday, 17th July she graduated from Northumbria University with a First Class Honours Degree in Physiotherapy, and is now working as a Physiotherapist for Grampian NHS.

Proud Grandparents Anne & John

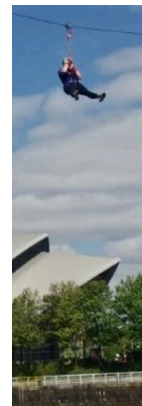


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Zipglide across the Clyde

On Friday 8th September, **Vittoria** will be taking her courage in her hands to take part in a sponsored zipwire across the river Clyde in Glasgow. I will be lifted up to 150 ft then slide 1000 ft from one side of the Clyde to the other.

This is in aid of the charity Alzheimer Scotland. My wonderful Aunt Joan was diagnosed with Alzheimers a year or so back, so this is a cause close to my heart. If you want to sponsor me, there will be sponsorship forms in church, you can give me a brown paper envelope, or you can give through my justgiving page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/vittoria-hancock>



Rev'd Canon 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

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 12th

CONTACTS :

Treasurer
Secretary
Lay Representative
Vestry Members

Sacristan
Organist
Youth Leader
Child Protection Officer
Chalice Bearers

Secretary
Treasurer
Lay representative
Vestry Members

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

ST. KENTIGERN'S

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

ST. THOMAS'S

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

ST. NINIAN'S

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

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

