

# The Deeside Tattler

October and November 2023



St. Kentigern's, Ballater.

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



**Rector: Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock**  
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**Lay Reader: Hugh Dawson, Tel. No 013398 87054**

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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.

#### **Mid week Communions**

Tuesdays, 10th October, 14th November, 11.30am, St Thomas'  
Thursdays, 26th October, 30th November, 11.30am, St Kentigern's

#### **Dates for the Diary**

1st October, 11.15am, Harvest Service, St Thomas',  
followed by bring and share lunch  
8th October, 9.30am, Harvest Service, St Kentigern's,  
followed by bring and share lunch at 1pm  
26th October, 1.30 – 3.30 Christmas Craft Afternoon, St Kentigern's  
29th October, AGM St Thomas'  
12th November, Remembrance Sunday – no service in either church  
19th November, AGM St Kentigern's  
30th November, 1.30 – 3.30 Christmas Craft Afternoon, St Kentigern's  
2nd December, St Kentigern's Church Fair  
3rd December, Advent Sunday  
10th December, 6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols, St Thomas'

**From the Editor:** The Season of Creation ends on 4th October, which is the Feast Day of St Francis, and this is reflected within the magazine in different ways. We have articles about St Francis and about Creation. We note that the Evening of Praise written about by Sabrina had the theme of Creation this time. This whole area has become important in our thinking and the way we try to live, while remembering to 'engage in it with faith, not with fatalism', as Canon Paul Hardingham has put it. We have a very beautiful world to love and appreciate. Autumn is upon us, and we have a few weeks of the wonderful display that nature puts on for us at this time of year. Let's enjoy it to the full while autumn is with us, caring for our world, and praising God who created it all. **Ed**

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From the Rector,  
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,  
This week seems to have been one of extremes, encompassing the whole spectrum of my work and life. Monday I had choir practice, ready for the Evening of Praise, followed by helping to teach computer programming at the Cromar Future Group. Tuesday was the Ghillies Ball. For once there were more men than women. At school, being one of the taller females in my class, I always had to dance the man's part (I still have to resist the attempt to lead when dancing!). So it made a change to find myself flung around the ballroom by a succession of burly soldiers, some of whom were reciting the steps under their breath as they danced. The quickstep rather caught them out – I don't think they'd been taught that over the last couple of weeks. My toes have just about recovered. But all good fun. Wednesday was the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board. Thursday was visiting.

And Friday I zip-wired merrily across the Clyde. It was a beautiful day – if not the day to be trussed up like a turkey with a helmet on! Sue Burgess was my companion and bag carrier. We lunched at the Riverside Museum in Partick, not far from the zip-wire site – in fact, you could see the crane from the museum. The crane. Oh yes. The one bit of the experience I was not looking forward to. Thankfully it was a very calm day, but even so, the cage I went up in and was launched from was swaying gently to and fro. I have zip-wired from stable platforms previously – cliff edges, buildings. A moving surface was a little unsteady. It was actually far less disconcerting to step off the edge and feel my weight being taken by the harness. Off I set, waving to the bystanders and admiring the view, and five minutes later it was over and done with, save for the walk still harnessed up back to the start. Would I do it again? Definitely! Was it worth it? Yes.

As many of you know, this was a charity zip-wire in aid of Alzheimer's Scotland. Thanks to all the sponsors, I raised about £800. There are so many good causes out there, all asking for our support, but this one was close to my heart. My Aunt was diagnosed with Alzheimer's last year.



Our identity is tied up with who we are in time and space; with who we relate to; with who our family and friends are; with what we do. My mother once told me she got very frustrated because she was always described and seen as either Ken's wife or Steffan's / Catthrina's / Vittoria's mother. She felt that she had lost her own identity. It's why when I introduce her, or speak to her in company, I often address her as 'Thelma'.

The question is, who are we when we are stripped of those connections? When we cannot remember who we are, or where we are? When we can no longer do what we used to do? Are we still the same person? With my aunt, whether she remembers me or not, she is still my beloved aunt. I have all the memories of growing up with her around. Of Boxing Days spent in the old house, full of family and friends. Of a home full of love and laughter. Of care for a rather gawky child. I know her capability for numbers and mathematics. Her love of music and dance. Her ability to welcome, to listen, to embrace whoever I was, and whatever I wanted to do with my life. No judgment. I can remind her of all those things.

And I know that beyond all this, she, as I, am something else. She is a beloved child of God. Even when her memory fades, and her sense of time and place diminish, she is still held fast in the hands of God. This is something for us all to cling on to, and something which cannot be taken away. No matter how far we travel, how remote we become from God, we are still his beloved children. It does not matter if we have wandered away from him. If we have failed him in thought, words or actions. It does not matter if memory fails. It does not matter if we can no longer do those things we used to do. If we cannot serve him with body or mind any more. What matters is that we are still his children. We can return to him at any point, from any distance. Our welcome is not dependent on what we can physically do for him, or what we are able to do mentally. It is not dependent on behaving in a particular way. It is not based on some sort of scales of judgment. What is important is that we are loved by him, and in return we are called to love him. And he will open his arms wide and welcome us in.

With every blessing,

**Vittoria**

## Dates to Note

1st October, 11.15am, Harvest Service, St Thomas' followed by bring and share lunch  
4th October, Diocesan Standing Committee  
7th October, Wedding, Birse Kirk  
8th October, 9.30am, Harvest Service, St Kentigern's, followed by bring and share lunch at 1pm  
9th October, 7.30pm, Joint Vestry, St Kentigern's  
23rd October, Cathedral Chapter meeting  
24th October, Wedding Blessing, Glen Tanar  
26th October, 1.30 – 3.30 Christmas Craft Afternoon, St Kentigern's  
29th October, AGM St Thomas'  
2nd November, St Kentigern's Vestry meeting  
4th November, Wedding, St Thomas  
12th November, Remembrance Sunday – no service in either church  
19th November, AGM St Kentigern's  
30th November, 1.30 – 3.30 Christmas Craft Afternoon, St Kentigern's  
2nd December, St Kentigern's Church Fair  
3rd December, Advent Sunday  
9th December, Wedding, St Thomas'  
10th December, 6.00pm Nine Lessons and Carols, St Thomas'

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## Soul Soup Lunches

Soup for the body, company for the soul. These lunches will continue at 12pm on midweek communion days. 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.



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## St Kentigern's Christmas Coffee Morning and Fair



We have arranged two **Craft Afternoons** at St Kentigern's, on 26th October and 30th November. This is a fun way to prepare for the Christmas Table, which will be an important part of the event. We hope lots of people will want to come and help to make it another enormous success!

**Sabine Muir**

## 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.

Hilary writes: For our last walk, we took a stroll to the Kinord Cross (pictured).



Having made our way to the cross we sat beside the loch for the "hot chocolate" and chatted and watched what was going on over the water. There was a visit from two rangers who were trying to deter people from lighting fires by planting a warning board on a spike in the remains of a previous fire. This was despite warning notices about the danger of fires around the site.

We will be walking again on 15th October and 19th November. In October we will be walking from the centre of Aboyne out to the old church at Formaston. Any suggestions for other walks, please let Vittoria know.

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

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## Flowers at St Thomas's

I have been trying to keep our church decorated with flowers since our return to church after the pandemic shut down, with the help of our small band of flower arrangers.

I know that other churches encourage their Congregations to help supply flowers, or donate towards flowers, often in memory of a loved one.

If any members of St Thomas's would like to contribute towards the decoration of the church, could you please contact me on 013398 82469 or see me in church.

**Jill Binns**



And many thanks to Jill for all her work in keeping our church so beautiful. **Ed**

## Charity zip-wire

Vittoria has had a Zip-wire adventure, in aid of Alzheimer's Scotland, and inspired by her much-loved aunt's onset of Alzheimer's. She gives details in her Rector's Letter, and we have these photos to help illustrate it all, taken by Sue Burgess, who accompanied and supported her.

Many members of our congregations have sponsored Vittoria, and the fund is still open as we go to press, if anyone wants to add something. The total will be something like £800.

'Alzheimer's Scotland is Scotland's national dementia charity. Our aim is to make sure nobody faces dementia alone. We provide support and information to people with dementia, their carers and families, we campaign for the rights of people with dementia and fund vital dementia research.

We have Dementia Resource Centres in 25 different locations across Scotland. Those centres provide a safe and friendly environment for people with dementia and their carers to visit and take part in a wide variety of activity groups.'

*from the web-site*



Vittoria and Ballater friend Linda



Up they go!



And there she is, waving to all the onlookers!



## Evening of Praise at St Thomas's

*The ladies of the choir. The men were tucked away to the left, out of sight, but with plenty of sound!*



It was lovely to walk into a cool St Thomas's Church after the heat of the day to attend the Evening of Praise, A Celebration of Creation and what a lovely service it was.

Well known hymns for us all to sing and enjoy, readings by Anne Harper and Geoff Cormack at their usual very high standard and Ian Stewart read the delightful story, Diary of a Church Mouse by John Betjeman. Our Rector Vittoria Hancock gave an amusing account of the Creation taken from Genesis. We heard a beautiful duet from Jill Binns and Sue Burgess, A Brown Bird Singing accompanied by David Fletcher. Solo flautist Angela Clark accompanied Lucy Bailey, our well known soprano, singing The Wonder-maker, whose amazing voice filled the Church. She is also the Augmented Choir's conductor., a lady of many parts! The Choir were as always in very good voice and we were treated to a delightful rendition of 3 well known anthems.

Many thanks must also go to Sheila Maxwell, Organist of the Augmented Choir who works so hard for these special evenings held throughout the year. Please put the next one in your diaries, the Carol Service on December 10th. It will certainly be worth coming to.

**Sabrina Humphrey**



**Lucy, with Angela and David**



**Organist and conductor**

## All seasons burse and veil

St Thomas's has a new all seasons set of burse and veil. It has been made of material from Sue's mother, which was donated by Sue Burgess. Being multi-coloured, it is suitable for any of the Church's seasons, with their different colours assigned to them.

It is here displayed on the side altar in St Thomas's. Above at the window is the cross and candle which is lit during services as a prayer for peace in the Ukraine.



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## Lightning Conductor

At the end of August, St Thomas's finally got the improved lightning conductor installed. It was exciting to watch one of the men abseiling down the church tower, and created a lot of interest to children going home from the primary school.

Everything is now working perfectly.

It is fantastic to get this long overdue job completed. It was funded by 50% grant from SEC maintenance fund and 50% from congregation member donations, for which we are very grateful. Also VAT is covered by the listed building support scheme.

We have 2 further similar-sized maintenance projects to be done over the next 2 years (about £5000 each). If you would like to support these please speak to Vittoria or Warren. Thank you.

**Warren Burgess**



## Ballater Victoria Week

During this year's Ballater Victoria Week, the church was open for people to visit during the day. They were greeted with the aroma of sweet peas, courtesy of Marcus and Sabrina's prize-winning blooms, and some beautiful arrangements by flower arranger extraordinaire Maggie Jaffray.

Our scarecrow this Coronation year was on a royal theme: The King of Kings, featuring God as our supreme King, wearing robes and various other bits borrowed and acquired by our trusty team of helpers. Sue Burgess kindly let us borrow her son's globe, which we lit up during the services.

The words to the popular song 'He's Got the Whole World in His Hands,' were pasted on the wall behind the scarecrow, so people could be reminded of the words and maybe sing it with their children.

We also sang it during the service on August 6th. Such a jolly tune!



That same day there was an ecumenical Songs of Praise at Glenmuick Church with a fantastic concert by the Salvation Army band, and a surprise appearance of a lone piper playing a poignant Highland Cathedral.

The duck race on the Green, another popular Victoria Week event, took place on Sunday 13th, and even though we didn't have any ducks in the race this year, it was very enjoyable to watch and attended by many locals and visitors alike. The weather was great. Vittoria was enlisted to help catch ducks and wisely took her shoes off to do this, as the water sloshed over the Green at the end of the race, prompting children to splash around in it and get wet.

**Sabine Muir**

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### Warning at a mountain holiday resort:

Be careful not to fall here. It's dangerous. But if you do fall, remember to look to the left on your way down. You get a wonderful view on that side.

## ADVANCE WARNING!

St. Kentigern's will be holding a Christmas Coffee Morning on **Saturday 2nd December**, 10:30am. - 12:30pm. The event will be held in the Victoria Hall, Ballater. Stalls will include Cakes and Jams, Bottle Stall, Christmas Stall, Queen Camilla's Raffle, and Maggie's Raffle.

Any donations for any of the above will be most welcome. And do all come!  
**Anne R.**

### Queen Camilla's Gift

St. Kentigern's held its first annual fundraising sale in the summer of 1953, and Her Majesty the Queen Mother – an occasional congregant when visiting the north-east – donated a gift to the raffle.

She continued her donations every year as her bond with the small church grew closer, with the funeral of her brother David Bowes-Lyon being held there after he died suddenly at Birkhall in 1961.

Her connection with our church ended with her own death in 2002, at which point her daughter HM Queen Elizabeth II took over the tradition, which sadly ended with her death in September.

We asked if Queen Camilla would consider presenting us with a raffle prize for our annual church fair; she was happy to do so and sent a bottle of Limited-Edition Highgrove Organic Single Malt Whisky. It is to be drawn at St Kentigern's Christmas Coffee Morning and Fair, to be held on Saturday 2nd December. The gift will be on display in the Brakeley Gift Room in Ballater, where tickets will be on sale. They can also be bought via Sabine Muir.



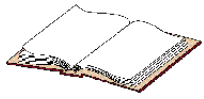
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### Down by the River

A minister was preaching on the dangers of alcohol. He concluded by thundering: "And that is why, if I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and pour it in the river. If I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and pour it in the river. And if I had all the whisky in the world, I'd take that as well, and pour it in the river." Satisfied that he had made his point, he sat down.

The music leader then stood up, and with a sheepish grin announced: "Our closing hymn is on page 238: 'Shall We Gather at the River?'"





**Readings for August and September 2023**  
**CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE**

**St. Kentigern's, 9.30am**

**St. Thomas's, 11.15am**

1st October Trinity 17	Ezekiel 18:1-4 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32	Anne Richardson	HARVEST Sue and Warren Burgess
8th October Trinity 18	Isaiah 5:1-7 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46	HARVEST Hilary Mutch	Meg White
15th October Trinity 19	Isaiah 25:1-9 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14	Sabrina Humphrey	Anne Harper
22nd October Trinity 20	Isaiah 45:1-7 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22	Margaret Jaffray	Carol Simmons
29th October Trinity 21 All Saints	Revelation 7:9-17 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12	Stanley Ewen	Jill Binns
5th November Trinity 22	Micah 3:5-12 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:1-12	Sabine Muir	Rider Family
12th November Trinity 23	Remembrance Sunday	(No service)	(No service)
19th November Trinity 24	Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Matthew 25:14-30	Marcus Humphrey	Isabel Wilson
26th November Christ the King	Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46	Anne Richardson	Meg White
HARVEST READINGS	Joel 2:21-27 Philippians 4:4-9 John 6:25-35		

<b>1st Sunday</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>	<b>Morning Worship</b>
<b>2nd Sunday</b>	<b>Holy Communion 1982</b>	<b>Holy Communion 1982</b>
<b>3rd Sunday</b>	<b>Holy Communion 1982</b>	<b>Holy Communion 1970</b>
<b>4th Sunday</b>	<b>Holy Communion 1970</b>	<b>Family Communion</b>
<b>5th Sunday</b>	<b>Morning Prayer</b>	<b>Morning Prayer (Matins)</b>

# 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**

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A poem written three years ago, immediately after the first service in St Thomas's since lockdown in March 2020, to mark this very special occasion.

Walking through the churchyard, through trees' shade  
 Standing upright, separate, alone,  
 Roots tangled, invisible connections.

Seeing the open door, warmth and welcome,  
 Sunlit colours through the windows,  
 Step into the brightness of God who welcomes all.

Listen, pray, rejoice, give thanks.  
 Strengthened together to go out,  
 Separate, but linked,  
 Rooted in God's love.

**Carol Simmons**

## Young Church at St. Thomas's

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

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

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

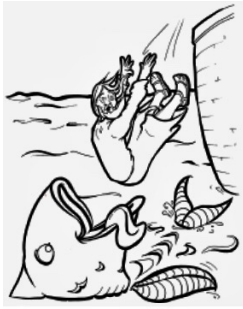
The next services are:

**1st October – Creation**

**5th November – Off with a bang**

## From the Bible, for the young and not so young

### The story of Jonah and the Whale



We all know about Jonah and the whale, and how Jonah was inside the whale for three days before being spat out again. But how did he come to be in the whale in the first place?

God had come to Jonah, and told him to go to the great city of Nineveh, and speak out against all their wickedness. Well, Jonah was naturally terrified at the thought, and could only run away from God in the best way he could. He went down to the sea, and found a ship going to Tarshish, which was a town in quite the opposite direction from Nineveh. So he paid

his fare, and off he went.

But just then, a tremendous storm got up. Jonah was peacefully asleep in the ship, but the seamen were afraid. They each called to their god for help, but nothing happened. So they woke up Jonah and told him to call on his God. Then they decided it must have been one of them that had caused this storm. They drew lots, and it fell to Jonah - it was all his fault! Jonah understood this, and so said they should throw him into the sea, and it would calm down again.

The seamen did this - and lo and behold, there was a 'great fish' that his God had prepared to catch him, that swallowed Jonah up. He was there three days and nights, and from the 'belly of hell' he prayed to God, saying he would again look towards His 'holy temple.' So God gave Jonah a second chance - He spoke to the whale, who spat him out onto dry land. So Jonah was saved from his ordeal!

But Jonah had learnt his lesson. A second time, God told Jonah to go and preach to the people of Nineveh - and this time he did as he was told. He spoke to them of their wickedness, and said that the whole city would be overthrown in forty days. And the people listened and repented, and their King commanded them to put on sackcloth and call on God to spare them. And when God saw all this, He changed His mind and spared the city from its destruction.

You would think that would be the end of it, the people of Nineveh had reformed and all was well. But Jonah had a very human reaction to all this - he was seriously angry because God did not destroy Nineveh when He had said He would, leaving Jonah's prophecy in tatters. It was not surprising though, as it was in God's nature to be forgiving. But Jonah might as well have stayed at home and saved himself a lot of trouble. And he went out by himself and sulked.

But God got the last word. He had Jonah in the broiling sun, a gourd came up to shelter him, and then died, leaving Jonah to suffer greatly again. So God had shown Jonah the suffering that He was sparing the people of Nineveh. And He rested His case. No more was heard of Jonah.

## St Francis of Assisi



St Francis (1181 – 1226) has his Feast Day on 4th October, as we end this year's Creation Month. He is surely one of the most attractive and best-loved of all the saints. But he began by being anything but a saint. Born the son of a wealthy cloth-merchant of Assisi, Francis' youth was spent in fast-living, parties and on fast horses as a leader of the young society of the town. Then he went to the war between Assisi and Perugia, and was taken prisoner for a year.

By the time of his release, Francis had changed. Perhaps his own suffering had awakened him to that of others. In any case, he abandoned warfare and carousing, and began to help the poor and the lepers of his area. Then one day a voice which seemed to come from the crucifix in the small, semi-derelict church of Damiano Assisi 'Go and repair my house, which you see is falling down'.

This religious experience was a vital turning point in Francis' life: Jesus Christ became very real and immediate to him. His first action was to begin repairing the church, having sold some of his father's cloth to pay for materials. His father was furious – until Francis renounced his inheritance and even his clothes by his dramatic stripping off in the public square of the town. The Bishop of Assisi provided him with simple garments, and Francis began his new life.

Francis' close rapport with the animal creation was well known. The story of his preaching to the birds has always been a favourite scene from his life. He also tamed the wolf of Gubbio. This affinity emphasises his consideration for, and sense of identity with, all elements of the physical universe, as seen in his Cantic of the Sun. This makes him an apt patron of nature conservation.

From **Cantic of the Sun:**

Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,  
especially through my lord Brother Sun,  
who brings the day; and you give light through him.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Moon and the stars,  
in heaven you formed them clear and precious and beautiful.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Wind,  
and through the air, cloudy and serene,  
and every kind of weather through which you give sustenance to Your creatures.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Water,  
which is very useful and humble and precious and chaste.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Brother Fire,  
through whom you light the night and he is beautiful  
and playful and robust and strong.

Praised be You, my Lord, through Sister Mother Earth,  
who sustains us and governs us and who produces  
varied fruits with coloured flowers and herbs.



## Creation-tide

**Rev David Coleman, chaplain of Eco-Congregation Scotland, writes**



Since 1989, the 'Season of Creation', 'Creation Time', or 'Creationtide' has grown to be a lively global and ecumenical movement in Christian churches, dedicating the Sundays of September and the first in October (closest to St Francis' Day on 4 October) to worship, prayer, reflection and action on the Commission of the Risen Christ, to bring Good News to All Creation. (Mark 16:15). It's a chance to celebrate what it means to be Church against the real, urgent and increasing threat of climate and other environmental crises. And to rediscover the meaning of a distinctive human calling of justice, care, guidance and partnership with – as well as dependence on – fellow creatures with whom we share so much.

**Canon Paul Hardingham** writes, with reference to the Glasgow COP conference:

We belong to Christ:

We also belong to the one in whom: 'all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.' (Colossians 1:16). We can look forward to the climax of history when God will restore the broken world and make everything new. We are empowered by Christ to take our proper place as stewards of the earth, as we share in this hope. We are called to love God and neighbour, and care for the planet by living simply, recycling, conserving energy and choosing reusable options.

However great the climate crisis gets, as Christians, we can engage in it with faith and not with fatalism!

So we look at the wonders of God's creation, as we seek to preserve it:

### Tatties and blackbirds

The autumn sun emerges from behind the clouds  
Sending shafts of sunlight to play in the garden  
While the dry patch lasts  
I head into the garden  
To harvest the last of the tatties  
They emerge from the ground  
Precious jewels of the earth  
Tumbled into the bucket  
I stand  
Admiring God's work  
And in a tree  
A blackbird starts to sing.

*Vittoria Hancock*

## News from Aboyne-Dinnet Church

5th Oct **First Church Guild evening** of the autumn.

There will be a speaker, Ruth Box from the charity 'Chocolate Heaven', and we understand that she will bring chocolate! The meeting will be in the Church Hall on Huntly Road and starts at 7pm. All welcome.

7th Oct **Ladies Breakfast and Talk** in the Church Hall on Huntly Road at 10:00am. The speaker is **Helen Jackson** who will speak on the topic of 'The Book of Deer Project'. This should be fascinating,

It is necessary to book a place in advance, but tickets can be paid on the day. Please contact Christa on 87652, or by email [christa.markham@btinternet.com](mailto:christa.markham@btinternet.com)

4th Nov **Ladies Breakfast and Talk** in the Church Hall on Huntly Road at 10:00am. **Douglas Ledingham** will give us a talk entitled 'A Journey Through Time' with the help of 3-D photogrammetry.

Again, this event needs to be booked in advance. Christa can also be contacted via email [christa.markham@btinternet.com](mailto:christa.markham@btinternet.com).

All breakfast tickets are £5.

### Singing for Fun

Singing for Fun takes place in Aboyne-Dinnet Church every Wednesday from 2-3. We sing a variety of songs, generally in unison. New members, both men and women, are welcome to join from October 11th. Just come along. There is a weekly charge of £2.



Thanks to technology, replacing the worn-out hymn books didn't cost a penny

## Old Mower

Every time I step into the garage I nearly trip over the old mower, but the other day I thought of it when it was bright and shiny new. We used to have a small, caravan site when we were in the shop and post office and cutting the grass was quite a chore. My dad often helped out, but he had a lot of grass that needed cutting as well, so we decided to buy a mower between us - and the following poem relates the day it arrived in Glenkindie. We always called him Grandad because our girls were young in those days.



### Dusting

"A house becomes a home when you can write "I love you" on the furniture."

I can't tell you how many countless hours that I have spent CLEANING! I used to spend at least 8 hours every weekend making sure things were just perfect - "in case someone came over". Then I realized one day that no one came over; they were all out living life and having fun!

Now, when people visit, I find no need to explain the "condition" of my home. They are more interested in hearing about the things I've been doing while I was away living life and having fun. If you haven't figured this out yet, please heed this advice.

Life is short. Enjoy it! Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better to paint a picture or write a letter, bake a cake or plant a seed, ponder the difference between want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time, with rivers to swim and mountains to climb, music to hear and books to read, friends to cherish and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world is out there with the sun in your eyes, the wind in your hair, a flutter of snow, a shower of rain. This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind, old age will come and it's not kind. And when you go - and go you must - you, yourself will make more dust!

Share this with all the wonderful women in your life! I JUST DID.

It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived.

Our Grandad bought a mower to save his poor old feet  
It had a 7 horse engine and a smashing comfy seat.

The day it was delivered is one we'll ne'er forget,  
So I'll tell you all about it and the adventures that it met.

The lovely shiny monster, all gleaming bright and red  
Was unloaded ceremoniously and taken to its shed.

The roar of mighty engines was heard from miles around,  
When the mower started working, grandad said, "A lovely sound".

But no-one yet had driven it so Barrie had a go  
And round and round and back and forth, he showed how it could mow.

Then Barrie said to Grandad, "Go on, take it inside",  
And on hopped Grandad quickly with Granny giving him a guide.

The engine roared, the gear selected, the monster reared and fell  
And jumped and leapt near through the wall, while Granny hung on as well.

To stop that demon was no joke as Grandad couldn't hear  
The shouts from Barrie to press the clutch right in his bloomin' ear.

At last the bucking Bronco stopped, all heaved a grateful sigh,  
But Grandad said he'd master it with some practise by and by.

The garage was still standing, no damage had been done,  
All fell about laughing, what an hour of two of fun.

Now that it has been tamed and all mowing jobs complete  
Grandad swears, "Tis best to mow while sitting on your seat".

The grass has never been so short, in fact it's nearly bald  
And if it doesn't rain quite soon,, the mower will be sold!

Eileen A. Davies 20th June, 1978.

Roger retains his sense of humour! Ed





## WEB-SITES

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

If you want to get in touch, please email: [stthomasaboynere@gmail.com](mailto:stthomasaboynere@gmail.com)

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

Some services are recorded at St Thomas's. The Youtube Link is: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.thomaschurchaboynere>

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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

## 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 November 14th

## CONTACTS :

### ST. KENTIGERN'S

Treasurer	Marcus Humphrey
Secretary	Sabine Muir
Lay Representative	Hilary Mutch
Vestry Members	Sabrina Humphrey Margaret Jaffray Sabine Muir Anne Richardson Susan Smith
Sacristan	Hilary Mutch
Organist	Stanley Ewen
Youth Leader	Anne Richardson
Child Protection Officer	Anne Richardson
Chalice Bearers	Roger Searle, Marcus Humphrey, Susan Smith, Douglas Mutch, Sabine Muir

### ST. THOMAS'S

Secretary	Anne Harper
Treasurer	Sue Burgess
Lay representative	Anne Harper
Vestry Members	Warren Burgess Sheila Maxwell Katherine Rider Carol Simmons Lesley Thomas
Organist and Publicity	Sheila Maxwell
Child Protection Officer	Lesley Thomas
Sacristans	Carol Simmons, Jo Elson, Lesley Thomas
Chalice Bearers	Warren Burgess, Peter Sowrey, Andrew Wilson, Sue Burgess
Flowers	Jill Binns
People's Warden	Warren Burgess
(Maintenance Officer)	
Patron	Michael Bruce

### ST. NINIAN'S

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

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



