

The Deeside Tattler

April and May 2024



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

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

Midweek Communions

Tuesdays, 11.30am, St Thomas': 9th April, 11th June
Thursdays, 11.30am, St Kentigern's: 23rd May, 27th June

Dates for the diary

31st March, **Easter Sunday**
10th April, 7.30pm, St Thomas' 5-year planning meeting
14th April, 6pm, Choral Evensong, St Thomas' with the Augmented Choir
30th April, St Thomas' Vestry Meeting
2nd May, St Kentigern's Vestry meeting
7th May, 7pm, Dee-Don Group meeting at St Thomas' – looking at 5 year planning
9th May, Ascension Day, 11.30 Holy Communion, St Kentigern's
6pm, Holy Communion, St Thomas'
13th May, Joint Vestry meeting, St Thomas'
19th May, Pentecost Sunday
23rd May, St Kentigern's 5-year planning meeting
13th - 15th June, General Synod, Edinburgh

From the Editor: The magazine this time is reflecting the liveliness of the church and its people, with descriptions of some of our recent events, the Christingle, chocolate walks, and of course the tenth anniversary celebrations. There are also memories, recent and long ago, which add interest - and knowledge and understanding of times gone by. We are now coming up to Easter, with special services during Holy Week, including the Easter Vigil, bringing light to the church, an event which is happily shared with the Aboyne-Dinnet church members. Then we have Easter itself, a joyful service, all the more so because of the preparation that goes on before it. A five-year plan to be thought out should give rise to plenty of activity for the future of our churches - and plenty more to write about here! We are grateful to all our contributors, and hope for lots more to come. **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,
One of my habits when I am having a paperwork day is to stop every 30-40 minutes and go for a stroll around my garden. It gives my body a break, allows me to mentally recharge, and gives my eyes something different to look at. These last few weeks, I have been watching as the crocuses slowly emerge from under the grass, poking their way upwards and opening up into a carpet of purple, white and yellow. The snowdrops are still clinging on under the shelter of the beech hedge, and the daffodils are showing their buds, even if they haven't opened up as yet. This morning I spotted the first tiny knob of the rhubarb pushing its way up from under the soil. Spring is such a hopeful season. Full of life and energy. I find myself planning what I want to do in the garden, projects to do around the house. Making lists of where I start spring-cleaning. Thinking about places I want to visit, tasks I want to do. After the darkness of winter, the spring seems full of light, even on the wet dreary spring days. I know the rain promotes growth, so I am happy to live with it. If I am in a good mood, I put my wellies on and go and splash in puddles. If I'm not feeling quite so upbeat, I snuggle up on the sofa and listen to the rain from the warmth of my living room. In spring, there is hope for the future, when other things seem barren and devoid of life.

I was asked a while ago what Christianity had to offer that other belief systems do not. My answer was hope. Hope in and through Christ. Hope for the future. Hope that life on this earth is not all there is. Hope because there is nothing we can do that can push God away from us. Hope because new life in Christ is not dependent on us and our actions, but on Jesus and his. We don't need to pray five times a day, or sacrifice on an altar, or follow a dress code. We are not saved through what we can do, but because someone else – Jesus – has done the work for us.

We are saved because he was willing to give his life in place of our lives. That does not mean we shouldn't pray, or give alms, or fast. But it means that when we do it, we do so out of a sense of gratitude and appreciation, out of wanting to build a relationship with God, out of love and service to others. That is far more valuable than doing something just to tick the boxes. How do you live in Christ? Do you live and pray and serve out of obligation, or out of love and gratitude?

I wonder what you think the unique selling point of Christianity is. What is it you can tell friends and family about Christianity that might encourage them to explore it? What is it that turns you to Christ, instead of another faith? Easter is fast approaching as I write this letter. We will soon be celebrating that great festival of hope, and love, and joy. Such a wonderful celebration. It reminds us of the reason we can rejoice as Christians – God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us. So let us rejoice together this Easter.

Every blessing,
Vittoria

Midweek Communions

Tuesdays, 11.30am, 9th April, 11th June, St Thomas', Aboyne
Thursdays, 11.30am, 23rd May, 27th June, St Kentigern's, Ballater

Soup Lunches

These follow on from our midweek communion services, although you are very welcome to come to one without the other.

St Thomas', Aboyne, 12-1pm, 9th April, 11th June
St Kentigern's, Ballater, 12-1pm, 23rd May, 27th June

Choral Evensong

A Choral Evensong is taking place at St Thomas's on Sunday 14th April, at 6pm. It follows the Prayer Book setting of Evensong, with the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in the setting by Howard Goodall (of Vicar of Dibley fame!) The psalm will be Stanford's simple but magnificent setting of Psalm 150, and the choir will also sing the anthem 'Above all praise' by Mendelssohn. There will be hymns for everyone present to sing. There will be light refreshments and a chance to socialise after the service. Do come and share in what promises to be a lovely event.

PENTECOST

Pentecost, (from the Greek for '50th day'), is the third major festival in the Christian year, although unlike Christmas and Easter, it is not celebrated in the secular world. This is a shame, since without Pentecost we would have no church. Pentecost is the birthday of the church, the day when we celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples, and the day when the early church is opened up to people of all faiths. It takes place 50 days after Easter. We know it has been celebrated since at least the 2nd century CE.

It took place at the same times as the Jewish feast known as Shavuot or Tabernacles, which is why there were so many people in Jerusalem when the events of Pentecost took place. Shavuot is a thanksgiving for the Jewish Law as given to Moses, although it began as a celebration of the first fruits of the wheat harvest. The link with the Jewish festival was made through the belief that the gift of the Holy Spirit was the first fruits of the new covenant with God through his Son.

Over time, Pentecost became a popular day for baptisms, and it became known as White Sunday or Whitsunday, for the white garments worn by those being baptised. We use red as the liturgical colour as it symbolises the Holy Spirit.

Church Finances



You will be aware that the cost of running our churches is increasing, year on year. St Kentigern's needs to raise approximately £150 a week to run the church and pay for half of Vittoria's stipend. St Thomas' needs to raise approximately £150 a week as well. At present both churches have a shortfall in their income. Neither church gets funding from outside sources – we are dependent on the congregations to raise sufficient money.

Both St Thomas' and St Kentigern's have had their quinquennial inspections, as has the Rectory. There is, unsurprisingly, work to be done on both churches and the Rectory.

At St Thomas', the outside of the building needs repointing and the moss removing from the roof, in the first instance. We have applied for some grant funding, but more money will be needed.

At St Kentigern's, work needs to be done to discover the source of the dampness above the chancel arch. We are in the process of getting quotes for this.

The Rectory also has a leak in the roof, which will require scaffolding to repair it. We are also looking to install insulation in the attic. Again, we are in the process of getting quotes for this work to be done.

Can I ask you, please, to look at your giving, and consider raising your level of contributions?

Vittoria

HOT CHOCOLATE WALKS

The hot chocolate walks are resuming – these are gentle strolls in the local area to explore a point of interest, with a stop for hot chocolate or a beverage of your choice in your flask. 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.

On **7th April**, there will be a walk around Parkin's Moss at Loch Kinord. We will meet at Burn O'Vat car park at 2pm. On **19th May** there will be another walk – suggestions as to location appreciated! 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.

February Hot Chocolate Walk

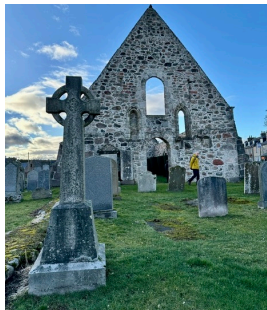
What a stunning afternoon Hot Chocolate Walk we enjoyed in February . We visited St Erchard's Well in Kincardine O'Neil to start with (the old and new wells) - and then down to the River Dee and on to part of Deeside Way before returning to the village . Such a delightful walk on a beautiful sunny afternoon.

St Erchard is said to have been a disciple of St Ternan (5/6th cent.) and is the patron saint of the village.

The old well was built in 1858 in the village but was moved to a new position in 1997. The granite structure replaced a hole in the ground where the natural well, claimed to have healing properties, could be more easily be accessed'



We enjoyed our Hot Chocolate sitting on a wall near the Deeside Way, with fabulous views over the Dee, before returning to the village and visiting the old ruined 13-14th century Kirk. It was to this area that St Erchard brought Christianity to Aberdeenshire in 5th Century and he is



believed to be buried within the church
Carol Birss

Note - There is a fuller and interesting article about St Erchard by Hugh Cochran, written in 2012, on the St Thomas's website, under 'Home - Archives - The Saints of Mid-Deeside, Article 2. The link is <http://www.stthomasaboynne.org>

Christingle Service at St Thomas's

The Christingle service is a celebration of Light - Jesus the Light of the World. In times past, St Thomas's celebrated it during Advent, but it has been moved to the feast of Candlemas in recent years, coinciding with the presentation of the baby Jesus in the Temple, and the purification of the Virgin Mary, which marks the end of the Christmas season on 2nd February.

The Christingle is highly symbolic, with the orange marking the whole world, the red ribbon round it symbolises the love and blood of Christ, there are sweets or fruits representing God's creation, and a candle stands above all, for Jesus the Light of the World.

At St Thomas's Christingle service, all this was first explained. Then the whole congregation got up, and proceeded to make their own Christingle from the prepared items. They were laid out on tables, and there was a remarkable sense of fellowship in a shared and meaningful task, with adults and children taking part together.

When everyone had their Christingle, they were lit, and there was a procession round the church with them, to highlight Jesus as the Light of the World. A special hymn was sung to the tune of 'While shepherds watched' - Christingle lights shine round the world.

It was a different sort of service from the usual - but it brought out so clearly the knowledge of Jesus being the Light of the world.



The congregation went over to the tables to make their Christingles



People of all ages were sharing, both young,



and not so young

Vittoria's 10th Anniversary celebrations

We do love an excuse for a party! And what better reason could we have than celebrating Vittoria's ten years as Rector of St Kentigern's and St Thomas's? She has had one of the longest ministries in the history of our churches, and certainly is the longest since the early 1990's. And with it, she has brought stability, growth, new ideas for worship and for community life - and fun!

The actual Day was Wednesday 28th February, but this was a busy work day for Vittoria - typically! So St Kentigern's marked the occasion on the Thursday, on the normal Midweek Communion/soup lunch day. A larger gathering than usual came to celebrate, and a very remarkable Cake was produced, with initials, ten candles, and a lovely little model of Vittoria, holding a Bible in one hand and one of her favourite butterflies in the other.

Vittoria was also presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers



Both churches had an informal Morning Worship, with a service specially drawn up by Vittoria for the occasion, and as inspiring as usual. As well as thanksgiving, it included, looking forward, a prayer of re-commitment to God and to ourselves. For the hymns, she chose four of the ones she had chosen ten years ago for her Induction Service, making a nice link.



After the service at St Thomas's, Vittoria was presented with a lovely framed picture of St Thomas's, specially painted by Alan Thomas, husband of Lesley, one of the vestry members. The actual presentation was performed, in typically lively fashion, by the three young Rider children, carefully shepherded by Anne Harper.



There followed by a 'bring and share' lunch for both churches, using the south aisle at St Thomas's after their service. Tables had been set up, soup was provide for all, and a very large selection of food of all kinds, brought in by the congregations. And of course there was another Cake - gorgeous, not as fancy as the one at St Kentigern's, but topped with sparklers that were suitably lit when Vittoria cut the cake!



Vittoria cuts the cake



Alan and Lesley Thomas looking on

It was all good fun, and very informal and friendly. Looking at it as a whole, it seems to symbolise some of the changes there have been since Vittoria's arrival. Our churches were always friendly and welcoming, but perhaps rather more formal. There would not have been soup for all in church in the old days! The new chairs in St Thomas's, after she spent about two years persuading us to make the change, have made an enormous difference in the way the church can be used, for services and socially, without any less respect for our worship.

We are grateful to Vittoria for the ten years of her leadership, the growth and stimulation that have come from it - and, again, the fun! It is good that this just feels like a passing milestone, new ideas keep coming, more growth and stimulation are expected - and we are just about to look at our next five-year plan! We look back to say thank you, but we have many reasons to keep looking forward

Vienna January 2024

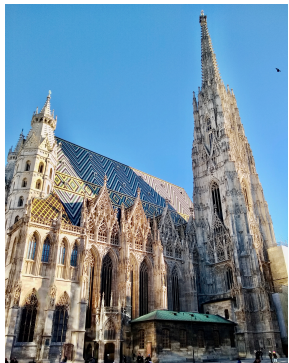
In late January Pam and Richard Marsh joined us for a short tour of this lovely city guided by our good friend Tom Duncan of Ciceroni Travel. Richard pointed out that the city was largely intact after the last War because it was just beyond the range of our Lancaster bombers! Flight timings from Aberdeen meant we had to leave a day early, so we had a day to ourselves in Vienna in the comfort of the Ambassador Hotel, which was a big improvement on having to spend a night in Terminal 5, and allowed us to find our way around before meeting up with the other members of the Group, some of whom we had met before which was nice.



Capuchin Crypt

It is astonishing that so much has survived the political changes after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1916, and in such excellent condition.

In the afternoon we visited the Spanish Riding School for a guided tour, though not a performance, which was most impressive.



St Stephen's Cathedral

Most of the attractions we saw were within walking distance, and on our first morning Tom took us a short distance to the Capuchin Crypt where all the Habsburg kings, Queens, Emperors and family members lie in their amazing gilded metal coffins. We then walked on to the Hofburg, an enormous complex of remarkably well preserved buildings occupying much of the old city centre. The highlight for me was our visit to the Sacred and Secular Treasures which contain many of the jewelled treasures of the Hapsburgs, including very early Coronation robes and crowns.



Early coronation robe



Hapsburg Crown

Next morning we walked to the historic St. Stephen's Cathedral, a truly magnificent example of mediaeval architecture with its enormous south tower rising to 448 feet, and its beautiful roof of richly patterned glazed tiles. Begun as a Romanesque church in 1147 on the site of an ancient Roman church, it has a rich history, and was saved from destruction by retreating German soldiers at the end of the last war when they refused an order to "fire 100 shells" at it.



St Catherine with her wheel

Another of the more interesting features is the ornately carved stone pulpit, with what is taken to be a self-portrait of the stonemason carved into its base.



Carved pulpit



Karlskirche



We then walked quite a long way to the Ringstrasse to visit the Karlskirche, one of the city's finest Baroque churches.

After lunch at the Café Mozart the Group visited the Kunsthistorisches Museum, one of Europe's finest art galleries, while I sneaked back to the hotel for a rest as we were going to the opera that evening. The Museum holds many paintings once owned by our King Charles I and some of his courtiers, particularly the 1st Duke of Hamilton.



Jane Seymour

Dispersed after the Civil War, they were purchased by the then Governor of the Spanish Netherlands, Archduke Leopold von Hapsburg and subsequently incorporated into the Imperial Collections. One of its best known pictures is The Hunters in the Snow, by Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

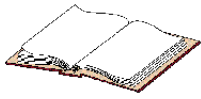


Hunters in the snow

In the evening the Marshes and ourselves went to the Volksoper theatre for a splendid if rather modern performance of Mozart's The Magic Flute which we thoroughly enjoyed.

(Continued in a second instalment next time)

Marcus Humphrey



Readings for April and May, 2024

7th April Easter 1	Acts 4:32-35 1 John 1:1-2:2 John 20:19-31	Sabine Muir	Rider Family
14th April Easter 2	Acts 3:12-19 1 John 3:1-7 Luke 24:36b-48	Margaret Jaffray	Anne Harper
21st April Easter 3	Acts 4:5-12 1 John 3:16-24 John 10:11-18	Stanley Ewen	Carol Simmons
28th April Easter 4	Acts 8:26-30 1 John 4:7-21 John 15:1-8	Sabrina Humphrey	Jill Binns
5th May Easter 5	Acts 10:44-48 1 John 5:1-6 John 15:9-17	Anne Richardson	The Burgesses
9th May Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11 Ephesians 1:15-23 Luke 24:44-53	TBA	TBA
12th May Ascension 1	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 1 John 5:9-13 John 17:6-19	Marcus Humphrey	Meg White
19th May PENTECOST	Isaiah 6:1-8 Romans 8:12-17 John 3:1-17	Hilary Mutch	Isabel Wilson
26th May TRINITY SUNDAY	1 Samuel 8:4-20 2 C 4:13-5:1 Mark 3:20-35	Susan Smith	Anne Harper

9th May, Ascension Day, 11.30 Holy Communion, St Kentigern's
6pm, Holy Communion, St Thomas'

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 1970	Holy Communion 1970
4th Sunday	Holy Communion 1982	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 materials and toys for small children, so do make use of them.

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

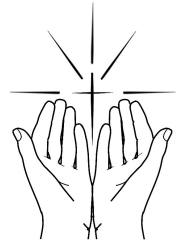
This is normally a non-Communion Service, not specifically for children, but they are of course especially welcome.

The next services are:

7th April: Peace be with you
5th May: Love one another

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Father, hear the prayer we offer:
Not for ease that prayer shall be,
But for strength, that we may ever
Live our lives courageously.



Not forever in green pastures
Do we ask our way to be,
But the steep and rugged pathway
May we tread rejoicingly.

Be our strength in hours of weakness,
In our wanderings be our Guide;
Through endeavour, failure, danger,
Father, be Thou at our side.

From the Bible for the young and not so young Jesus - the start of His Ministry



Have you wondered how Jesus, brought up in an ordinary human family, grew up to be the man we speak of as the Son of God? We know the stories surrounding his birth, but then what happened?

There is little in the Bible about his growing up, but there is an interesting story of his visit to Jerusalem with his parents for the Feast of the Passover when he was 12 years old. He went missing on their return, and his frantic parents eventually found him sitting in the Temple with the Doctors, showing amazing understanding. 'I must be about my Father's



business' he said, as he came away with his parents - and we are told that he remained subject to them. But he was an unusual youngster.

We are told no more until he was an adult, supposedly about 30 years old. His cousin John the Baptist was at the river Jordan, where crowds of people from near and far were being baptised and confessing their sins. And one day Jesus came along to be baptised. John protested, saying the he should be baptised by Jesus, but Jesus insisted, and was duly baptised.

As Jesus came out of the water, we are told that the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove, and a voice came from heaven, 'This is my beloved Son'.

It would seem that this was a real turning point in his life. We are told that he emerged full of the Holy Spirit, left the river and went into the wilderness, to be tempted by the devil. This would seem to be his preparation for the Ministry that followed. After forty days, Jesus, having eaten nothing, was hungry. The Devil told him to use his powers as Son of God to change a stone into bread - the easy way to solve his problem. But he refused, saying bread was not enough, man must live by the Word of God.



After two more attempts by the devil, Jesus said not to tempt him, 'you will not tempt the Lord your God.' And the devil left him.

After this, Jesus, in the power of the spirit, went back to his home town of Nazareth. He went to the synagogue on the Sabbath as usual and stood up to read. He was given the book of Isaiah where it said 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, and has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, heal the brokenhearted, preach deliverance to the captives, recovering sight to the blind' - all things we know now that he went on to do.

He closed the book, and said to all in the synagogue waiting for him to speak, 'Today is the Scripture fulfilled in your ears.'

It was a highly dramatic moment - but not one that Jesus would have hoped for. 'Isn't this Joseph's son?' they said. They all rose up in anger, thrust him out of the city, and led him to the brow of the hill where they could throw him down head first. But somehow - Jesus just passed through them and went his way unharmed.

Then Jesus went on to Galilee, started his ministry of preaching and healing, and began gathering his disciples to help him. His ministry had begun.



BASS NOTES

Gentleman's Relish, anyone?

Despite pleading with her not to, I noticed that Sheila mentioned the outcome of my most recent foray into the academic world in the last issue of the *Tattler*. This experience (academia, not the pleading with Sheila) inevitably brought back memories of my youthful time at St Andrews University. As you possibly know, the town of St Andrews is full of small, independent shops, including delicatessens, which at that time (late 1960s) were relatively new to Scotland.

I was fortunate enough to be friendly with an English girl who frequented such places and who decided that she knew just the thing to accompany my toast eating of an evening.

I possessed one of those antique metal toasters with a large central element and hinged doors on each side which enable you to heat two slices at once, flicking the toast over with a swift, deft opening and closing of the doors once you notice a fine toasty aroma wafting out from the beast. During this process you have to be careful not to burn your fingers. Such a contraption would not be allowed in any student residence nowadays on health and safety grounds, but this was the carefree sixties and I was an irresponsible student.



That toaster formed the centrepiece of many happy evenings with friends, where with the arrogance of youth we would sort out the world's problems once and for all.

Anyway, my friend decided that the whole toasting experience would be enhanced by the addition of Patum Peperium or Gentleman's Relish. This is not what you may be thinking - but is a spicy anchovy paste, thinly spread on hot toast. It has been around since 1828.

It is an understatement to say that Patum Peperium is an acquired taste, but once acquired you may find it to be a lifelong pleasure, if a rarely encountered one. Imagine my joy, therefore, when I discovered that Strachan's in Aboyne stock this delicacy.



I tried tempting my son-in-law and grandson with this little piece of culinary joy on toast, but neither of them seemed to understand or appreciate its subtle enchanting flavour. But then, I feel neither of them has my sophisticated palate. There is still hope for my grandson - he's seventeen; but I fear my son-in-law is beyond hope.



I'm sure you have seen people who have their knuckles tattooed with 'Love' and 'Hate'. Apparently you should tattoo 'Love' on the right hand representing good, and 'Hate' on the left to represent evil. It's a bit like that with Gentleman's Relish: as with Marmite, the world is divided into those who hate Patum Peperium, and the chosen few who love it.

I'm sure that somewhere in there is a message for our current sadly divided world.

Eric Sinclair

Memories Of Mozambique in 1992

What did I expect to find in Mozambique - devastation after a country ravaged by war for 18 years? Mozambique got independence from Portugal in 1975 and then plunged into civil war between government and communist backed Frelimo rebels which nearly destroyed the country. World Bank and British ODA provided consultants to help rebuild and Peter was in a team training port staff.



The war had ended by the time we arrived though we were to discover how much suffering there was for the local population. Many widows, children without fathers, and/or disabled. Children seemed to be everywhere on the streets, impoverished and begging.

At times you felt pestered but then it dawned why they were begging, they had lost so much and many had been rejected by family and came to the big city Maputo and lived on the streets. This was Mozambique rebuilding itself.

On arrival at Maputo airport, whilst Peter saw to formalities, I was a disabled person wheeled beyond Customs barriers where I was met by Project Manager Dick Parkin. After introductions Dick drove Peter and I to our ground floor apartment, surprisingly in a modern block. Once inside our flat we were introduced to Oona, Dick's wife, who had coffee at the ready. The flat had adequate furnishings but I was pleasantly surprised to find a vase of roses on the coffee table. I was later to discover that there was a florist shop who did beautiful arrangements in the main shopping street. This was amazing in a country recovering from war.

The following day Peter went into the office was introduced to Lorraine the secretary, who also lived in our block. Jo her husband also worked at the port and he was known as the computer expert not only training the locals to use them but also (in those days) the expatriates.



That same afternoon Lorraine took us to the local supermarket, newly opened and something I hadn't expected in this developing country, even computerised tills. They were only coming to the fore in Britain so quite an eye opener to find them already in a country rebuilding itself.

My biggest disappointment and a drawback to myself was that I couldn't speak or understand the Portuguese language. Being disabled I needed someone to do the housework. The first local girl we employed couldn't speak English and also needed housework training and I couldn't speak Portuguese - frustrating for both of us. This was the biggest disappointment for me on arrival.

However good always comes out of evil and the following day we went to the British Embassy, Churchill Club where I was introduced to several embassy staff including Genevieve. Being partially deaf I often miss the first introductory word especially if taken by surprise. Genevieve came and spoke to me and I duly poured out my worries over house maid and being unable to converse. Genevieve kindly offered to come to our house the following Monday and explain house duties to our house maid.

Imagine my surprise when leaving the British Embassy to hear Peter say that I had been talking to the Ambassador's wife. How silly I felt having complained about my domestic problems. However Genevieve as promised came to our house the following Monday and not only explained house work duties to our housemaid, but also showed her how to do it and one action which remains with me is Genevieve our Ambassador's wife putting 'Harpic' in our toilet. Eventually we dispensed with our first due mainly to language frustrations, and employed another maid, this time an English speaking one. However this was a disaster too when we discovered a few items of clothing missing, so we quickly dispensed with her services. Third time lucky and we found Roger, English speaking, very helpful and a real friend.

Tuesday afternoons will always remain in my memory when women of different nationalities met at first at the Aero Club, then at the Swedish club, at a sewing group organised by Lorraine.

Clothes were made for the Mother Teresa Home where there were many children and babies, some sick and others who had been left there. When I eventually



visited the M.T home at first I was devastated to see so many children and the basic conditions, it was a heartrending experience. However by the time of my second visit I had accustomed myself and was able to see the love and kindness shown by the MT sisters to the abandoned children. Some orphans without parents, some whose mother had died and others who were sick. I think that I was most affected by the young babies, some whose mother had died at birth. It was a most humbling experience!

Maputo, formerly Lorenzo Marques, was a beautiful city at one time. One could only sense the feeling of devastation when seeing many beautiful houses which sadly had been ruined due to neglect.

The beauty of Mozambique was now spoilt by the litter blowing around in Maputo. However to drive along the Corniche and see the palm trees swaying in the breeze with the Indian ocean in the distance was a truly marvellous sight.

Working for Portia was a great experience and Jo and Lorraine will always be remembered for helping those at work to become computer literate. Away from work Jo and Lorraine helping the street children, visiting and helping at Mother Teresa home, not to mention Lorraine's sewing group and assisting expatriates too!

Jean Sowrey

From Times Past - MY DAD

Hector Simon, was born at Tomacher, Logie Coldstone on the 23rd of March 1904, the ninth child of William and Ann Simon. His father was the Blacksmith and rented the croft at Townhead and was well known in the district for being very good with horses' ailments because his father and brother were both veterinarians.

Hector had four older brothers and four older sisters, then one younger brother and one younger sister and he attended Logie Coldstone school. When he was a pupil there he was sometimes called on to take the dominee to meetings or Bonspiels with his father's pony and trap. When he was older, at the grouse shooting time he used to take the pannier pony on to the hills to collect the grouse and one time while he was waiting for the drive to finish he fell asleep on the heather and woke up staring up into the underside of his pony who was standing astride over him, he peeked out and looked skyward and saw an eagle circling over him. Another time; when he was on the hills, the mist and fog came down and he was lost, his pony led him home safely.

His family attended Kincardine o' Neil church by pony and trap before **St. Thomas's** was built and he and younger brother Leslie were two of the first communicants when it was completed.

When he left school he went to work with his uncle who was at that time head chauffeur to Mr. Falconer Wallace of Candacraig and after a time he was sent to the Rolls Royce School of Motoring to learn about the cars and take their driving test which included a hill start with a raw egg being placed behind the rear wheel! He passed first time and we still have his cap and lapel badges. Many years later he received a certificate from Rolls Royce for so many miles accident free driving.

Dad was the same age as his boss's son and was sent with him over to France and other European countries driving a Rolls Royce on many occasions. One of Mr. A.L.P.F. Wallace's tricks was to get Dad to stop a good distance away from the hotel so he could bargain a good price with the hotel owner before allowing Dad to drive up with the car. No flies on him then!

He met my Mum at a dance in Logie Coldstone hall one summer when she was up at Balnastraid being nanny to the Ogston family, but it was six years later before they tied the knot, Dad being in London and Mum in Surbiton Surrey. However along came my oldest sister, Sheila, then myself, but our youngest sister Heather did not arrive until 10 years later.

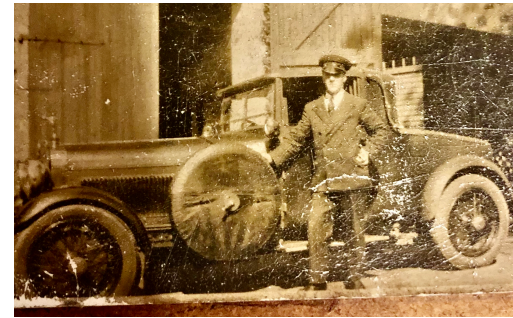
Dad had just been promoted to Head Chauffeur and we had moved into a lovely flat in Polygon Mews, off Oxford Square, the cars being housed beneath us in the huge garage where the horses and carriages had been kept. Our daily walk was always into Hyde Park to feed the ducks, then it was the shooting season and up we were in Strathdon again and the war started so we never returned to London. Now Dad tried to enlist in the RAF, but failed the medical so he then tried working in the lumber corps but his health suffered so he eventually got the job of driving the Pool van for the grocers of the community, taking their orders out for them and collecting the farmers' wives' eggs.\

I remember counting out the pennies into shillings when he came home. In the early forties he suffered from a burst duodenal ulcer and landed in ARI being operated on, his stomach being made much smaller, but he shouldered on nevertheless.

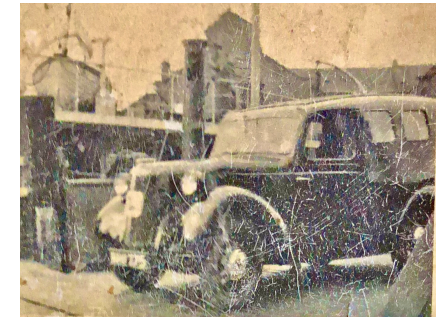
Then Mr. Wallace purchased a wee Austin van to take hampers of vegetables to the station at Dinnet and employed Dad again. I used to love going with him during the school holidays. Dad used to look after the ponies at Candacraig and used them and a gig to go down to the post office at Bellabeg with mail to save petrol when it was rationed and if we were lucky on the way home from school we got a lift in the trap.

Dad was a member of the Royal Observer Corp and took his turn of sitting all night on the Doune at Invernoughty listening for foreign aeroplanes. One night in the dead of winter they could hear a plane, but couldn't make out what make it was. It wasn't getting any nearer or going away and the men were all having a guess as to what it was. However in the morning on their way home they discovered that as it was very frosty the bus driver had kept the Bluebird bus running all night in its garage so the diesel wouldn't freeze and it could be started for the eight o'clock run. We do now have his ribbon and war medal.

Eileen Davies



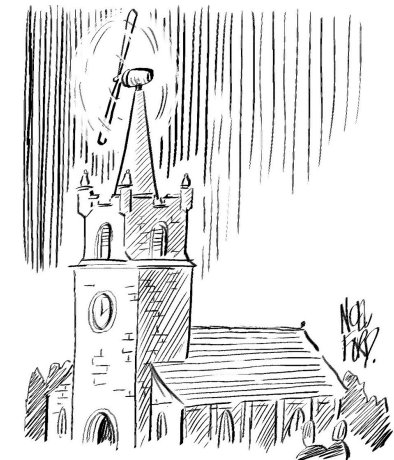
The old Rolls Royce



The wee Austin van

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"It's not as picturesque as the old steeple but it's saving a fortune in electricity bills!"



News from Aboyne-Dinnet



Daffodil Coffee Morning

On **Saturday 6th April** the Guild is holding a Daffodil Coffee Morning, 10am to noon. Refreshments will include hot cross buns or a lighter alternative to go with coffee, tea or juice. There will be the usual attractions including a cake and produce stall, raffle, book stall and children's attractions. Tickets are priced £4 for adults, £1 for children and will include refreshments.

Aboyne-Dinnet and the new Upper Deeside Parish Grouping are holding an afternoon service to celebrate Pentecost on **Sunday 19th May**. All are welcome.

Community Life Group

Ladies Breakfast & Talk programme

4th May'24: Gary Caroll from the Scottish Fire & Rescue Service will give us an insight about the work they are doing and how and why they use dogs.

1st June'24: Helen Jackson will talk on the subject of "Our Heritage in Baskets and now". The talk will cover heritage, materials, growing, preparation, and types of baskets.

7th September '24: Katie MacLean of Aberdeenshire Council will speak on the subject of "Refugee and Asylum Integration" in Aberdeenshire.

5th October '24: Gordon Hay will talk to us about why he rendered the Bible into Doric, what drove him to do it, and the challenges he encountered.

All these dates are Saturdays. The venue will be the Church Hall on Huntly Road, Aboyne. The breakfast will be cold and starts at 10am. We aim to keep the ticket price at £5. Posters for each of these events will be displayed locally nearer the time, and men are also welcome! Anyone who wants more information can always contact Christa on 86562.

Lent Appeal - Aberdeen Street Pastors

This year our Lent Appeal is for the work of the Aberdeen Street Pastors, which is part of an inter-denominational church response to urban problems; engaging with people on the streets to listen, care and help.

Jane Blake, who works with them, came one Sunday to give us first-hand information about the need for their work, and how they go about it. She spoke vividly about the work in the City Centre at weekends, and the dreadful situations they come across.

They take their special 'safe-space truck' there for several hours during the night, and this gives them a place to take people in need or with some trauma, to talk with them over a cup of coffee, provide a listening ear, and offer what help they can. Their vision is that they 'seek to be a visible presence in our city, caring for people through practical acts of compassion and Christian love.'

The work is voluntary, and they depend on people's donations to enable them to carry out this valuable Christian work. We can help to make a difference, so do give generously to them this Lent.

Congratulations and Commiserations

Deaths

The funeral of John Barber took place in St Thomas' in January.

The funeral of Hugh Cochran will take place in St Thomas' in March

It is with sadness that we heard of the death of Bishop Michael Adie in early March.

May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Please pray for their families and friends at this time.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Carole Nicoll on becoming a grandmother to Will, son of her daughter and son-in-law Kirsty and Ali.

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Bishop Michael Adie

Bishop Michael was Bishop of Guildford from 1983 until his retirement in 1994. He moved to Ballater in 2015, close to where his daughter Kate lived. He was born in Romford, Essex, the son of Walter and Kate Adie. He was educated at Westminster School and St John's College, Oxford. At the age of 17 he had the pleasure of being an usher at the Queen's wedding, something of which he was immensely proud.



He was ordained in 1955 and after a curacy at St Luke, Pallion, Sunderland, he became Resident Chaplain to the Archbishop of Canterbury. After that he was Vicar of St Mark, Sheffield, Rural Dean of Hallam, Rector of Louth, and Archdeacon of Lincoln before being elevated to the episcopate.

Bishop Michael played a significant role in introducing the measure in General Synod that led to the ordination of women priests. He was Chairman of the General Synod Board of Education and was appointed a CBE in the 1994 Birthday Honours for services to education.

He was married in 1957 to Anne Roynon (b.1930- d. 2013); they had three daughters and one son. He was immensely proud of his children and grandchildren.

Bishop Michael was a loved member of St Kentigern's, always encouraging and supportive. One of our favourite memories of him is seeing him walk in one Christmas Eve with tinsel and battery operated lights wrapped around both walking poles. A real light shining in the darkness.

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.stthomasaboynce.org>

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

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

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

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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, Aboynce
Please contact Meg White
Tel 013398 80034

St Kentigern's, Ballater
Please contact Vittoria Hancock
Tel. No. 013397 55919

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.

Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock

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 May 14th

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
- Sacristans
- Chalice Bearers

- Flowers
- People's Warden
(Maintenance Officer)
- Patron

- Dr Hugh Dawson:
- Astrid Cheyne:
- Anne Richardson

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

- Lay Reader, Treasurer, Organist
- Flowers
- Child Protection Officer

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