

The Deeside Tattler

December 2024 and January 2025



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 Communion

Tuesdays, St Thomas', 11.30am, 3rd, 10th, 17th December,
Thursdays, St Kentigern's, 11.30am, 5th, 12th, 19th December,



Dates for the diary

Sunday 1st December, 9.30am Informal Advent Communion service, St Kentigern's
11.15am, Informal Advent Communion service, St Thomas's
Sunday 15th December, 3pm, Ecumenical Service of Nine Lessons and Carols,
St Nathalan's Church, Ballater
6pm, Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, St Thomas'
Wednesday 18th December, 2.30pm, Christmas Service, Praesmoor Home, Birse
Sunday 5th January, 9.30am Epiphany Service, St Kentigern's
11.15am, Epiphany Communion, St Thomas'
Thursday 9th January, 3.30pm St Kentigern's Vestry Meeting
Sunday 2nd February, 9.30am, Christingle and Candlemas, St Kentigern's
11.15am Christingle and Candlemas, St Thomas
Wednesday 5th February, 7.30pm, St Thomas' Vestry meeting

From the Editor: We all look forward to Christmas at this time of year, but there are other festivals, more low-key, all bringing something special to them. In this edition of the Tattler, we have reports of the celebration of All Saints Day, and especially of the children who took part in it, in both of our morning services. We also had a Sung Evensong for All Saints, which Carol has written about for us. Then we are reminded of St Hilary, whom most of us have probably never heard of. But he is celebrated in January, he has an important history, with writings on theology that led to our present-day use of the Athanasian Creed.

We also have a reminder from our Rector that Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus, not just an excuse for early celebrations! Then after Christmas, we have a Christingle and Candlemas to look forward to, and there is the Epiphany, the chalking of the door and more. These things help us to look more widely and deeply into our Christian faith, and what it all means. We look forward to reports of many of these things. But all contributions are most welcome, so do keep them coming! A joyous Christmas and a fruitful New Year to all our readers. **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

I am writing this near the start of Celtic Advent. Celtic Advent begins at sunset on the 14th November, and continues until sunset on 24th December. Like Lent, Advent was originally 40 days of fasting and preparation. That can be difficult for us to imagine nowadays, when Advent seems to be just a countdown to Christmas – and carol services, Christmas parties and so on begin at the start of December itself. I noticed that the 'Christmas' lights on Oxford Street in London had been switched on at the start of November this year. While I am a fan of shining lights in the darkness – both physical and metaphorical – I can't help thinking that we miss something important when we fast forward past Advent; when we turn the electric lights on as soon as it gets slightly dark. There is something to be said for watching the dark arrive, savouring the last moments of the dwindling day. The night carries with it those angels of the night, owls, silently swooping through the air. Bats, fluttering and flittering here and there, silhouetted against the night sky. The brightness of stars in the night sky, and the dancing of the Northern Lights. I wonder when the last time was that you went for a walk in the dark, without the help of artificial lights, and just stared up at the bowl of the heavens above?

Advent is the time to seek treasures in the darkness, to look for the shining lights, to savour this time of waiting and anticipation. It is a time to clear out the dimly lit corners of our own lives, to examine our hearts and minds, readying them for the light to come. This is not necessarily a comfortable task, nor a welcome one. It is easier to aim for the lights and sparkle of the Christmas season. But we do not walk by ourselves. The Psalms tell us that even as we walk through the darkest valley, God is with us, his rod and staff are guiding and guarding us. Once through the darkness the lights are even brighter. We are wending our way through Advent towards Christmas, and onwards.

We are all in different stages of our lives. For some this time will be a time of growth, of joy, of celebration. For others it is a time of bedding down and putting to rest. As we approach Christmas, some will rejoice in the sights and sounds. For others it may bring back uncomfortable memories. Where we are in our personal lives colours our reactions to what is happening outside, in the wider communities in which we live. It can be life-giving, life-affirming, or life-draining.

Living in community calls for an awareness of each other. An ability to listen, to sense, to try to understand where people are, what they are going through. Amongst the mince pies and mulled wine, the scents of Christmas, the dark days of winter, look for those who are lost. Look for those who are struggling. Work together to move through the darkness into light.

Christmas for Christians marks the birth of the bringer of light, Christ himself. In the dark days that lie ahead, strive with me to be a bringer of light into the darkness, that all may flourish and walk in light, love and peace.

With every blessing,

Vittoria



Christmas Service Dates

Christmas Eve, 24th December, 4pm, Crib Service, St Thomas'
6.30pm, Carols around the Crib, St Kentigern's
11.30pm, Midnight Communion, St Thomas'

Christmas Day, 9.30am, Christmas Communion, St Kentigern's
11.15am, Christmas Communion, St Thomas'

Sunday 29th December, 9.30am, Carol-a-long, St Kentigern's
11.15am, Carol-a-long, St Thomas'

Hot Chocolate Walks - On **Saturday 21st December**, weather permitting, we will be walking out from the Square in Tarland to Tomnaverie Stone Circle to watch the sunset on the shortest day. Sunset is at 3.45pm, and we will leave Tarland at 3pm. Bring torches and hot chocolate, and wrap up warm. If you would like to join us but cannot walk that distance, you can park at Tomnaverie and just do the short stretch up to the stone circle.

There will be no Hot Chocolate Walk in January.

St Hilary, whom we celebrate in January

Hilary of Poitiers was Bishop of Poitiers in the 4th century, and a theologian. c. 310 – c. 367). His name comes from the Latin word for happy or cheerful. In addition to his work as bishop, Hilary was married and the father of Abra of Poitiers, a nun and saint who became known for her charity. Born in a pagan household, he studied Greek and the Old and New Testament texts, leading to his conversion to Christianity.

Arianism – the belief that Jesus Christ, while being the Son of God, was made or created by God, and therefore was not one with God – was on the rise at this time, and there were a series of debates between the Arians and Trinitarians. In 353 the Trinitarian Christians elected Hilary as Bishop, as the existing bishop Saturninus, was an Arian. This led to debates in Rome, with the then Pope refusing to condemn the Arians. Hilary wrote to the Emperor Constantius II complaining about the Arians persecuting people of other beliefs. This all got very messy and ended up with Hilary being exiled for four years to Phrygia.

While in Phrygia, as well as continuing to lead his diocese, he also wrote two major pieces of Christian doctrinal theology, *De fide Orientalium*, which explored Orthodox theology and *De trinitate libri XII* which looked at the doctrine of the Trinity as we know it today.

On return to his Diocese, St Hilary encouraged Martin of Tours to set up his monastery and way of life. The cult of Saint Hilary as well as of Martin of Tours spread early to western Britain. The villages of St Hilary in Cornwall and Glamorgan and that of Llanilar in Ceredigion bear his name. In France most dedications to Saint Hilary are styled "Saint-Hilaire" and lie west (and north) of the Massif Central.



Soup Lunches

Our soup lunches provide a free, warm space in which to socialise as we eat together. They take place on the same day as our midweek communion services, from 12-1pm. Anyone is welcome to join us for some friendship and food. You do not need to be a member of a church – just turn up.

If you have any special dietary requirements, please let Vittoria know in advance – you can email her or phone .

Advent giving to Foodbank

We will again be giving donations from our churches to the Foodbank in Banchory. This is part of the Trussell Trust, and gives to people in temporary but desperate need. They try to include in their gifts something special at Christmas time, especially when there are young children in need. There will be boxes in both churches during Advent for your donations.



Money Matters at St Thomas

Having just had the AGM, the annual accounts 23-24 are available for St Thomas, but in case you missed my report, here are a few interesting money matters..

Sheila and the Augmented choir have organised some lovely events during the year with great singing, and this also contributed £613 to the coffers for which many thanks.

We had 2 concerts linked to the Aboyne Festival and received £200 for the use of the church.

Warren has been asking for contributions towards the cleaning and pointing work on the outside of the church which is costing over £14,000. He has been successful in obtaining grants to cover half this work, and is delighted that we have received donations from the congregation amounting to £7000 for the other half. Thank you to the generous donors. I think you will all agree that the church is sparkling in the autumn sunshine.

Regular giving is the best treasure for any Treasurer, but donations for specific projects are fantastic.

Next year - that will be the inside decoration.

Sue Burgess

Sparkling clean outside of St Thomas's

The cleaning of the outside stonework of St Thomas's is now complete and what a difference! The granite is gleaming bright and sparkles in the sunlight! Stewart Urquhart and his assistant Peter spent 2 weeks in October working all over the church - cleaning off all the staining and moss build-up, followed by repairing the pointing where necessary. As a bonus the then painted on a water repelling gel coat which soaked into the stone and now any rainfall runs off the stone instead of soaking in. This will all make a big difference to keeping moisture out of the building. A few photos below - but best to come along and see for yourself!!

The cost of the work has been covered by a 50% grant from the SEC Buildings Maintenance fund and generous donations from congregation members, and the VAT was covered by the Listed Places of Worship VAT support scheme.

Warren Burgess



Scottish Charity Air Ambulances



Sue in front of the ambulance

Many of you may know that Warren and I volunteer as Community First Responders - trained by the Scottish Ambulance Service, we attend 999 calls in the local area to administer First Aid until the professionals arrive.

In a rural area, where ambulances may be in short supply or a distance away, we can start treatment as soon as possible aiming for the best outcomes for the patients.

On a recent callout - the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance attended as well as a Land Ambulance. I was on duty alone and handed over care of the patient to 4 paramedics, and while they were being assessed and treated in their home, I was invited to have a photo in front of the helicopter in a nearby field. It was fascinating to see the life-saving equipment they carry.

This is one of the ambulances we helped to fund with a recent **Lent Appeal**, so it was great to see it in action.

Sue Burgess



St Thomas's Christmas Trees

Warren is also cutting Christmas trees from the grounds for anyone who would like one, for a suitable donation to the Church Funds. There are a lot of beautiful trees, different sizes but getting bigger every year! Speak to Warren if you want one.



Sung Evensong for All Saints

The Sunday morning service at St Thomas's had been quite short, as it was followed by our AGM, so it was particularly good to have Sung Evensong later in the day. We were very glad that several people from the augmented choir joined us, including Lucy Bailey, who also conducted Wesley's anthem, 'Blessed are they' and the postlude, 'Hail gladdening light'.

We used the traditional liturgy for Evening Prayer from the Scottish Book of Common Prayer which helped us to worship thoughtfully and prayerfully as we followed the service, listening to the readings (from Revelation 7, and 1 John 3), and Vittoria's reflection. There were hymns for everyone to sing, and we all joined in saying the general Confession, the Creed and the Lord's Prayer. We chanted Psalm 24, 'The earth is the Lord's and all that therein is' and the two canticles, the Magnificat (Mary's song), and the Nunc Dimittis (Simeon's song), both from St Luke's gospel. These are beautiful verses from the New Testament, which we don't hear very often, although the Nunc Dimittis, 'Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace' is sometimes sung at a funeral.

I was struck by how much biblical material is used in this service, and how time for silence and reflection can be incorporated in this service as well as time for singing and rejoicing.

Our thanks go to Sheila our organist, and our Rector Vittoria for organising and leading the service, and to the choir and congregation who took part. Several of us would like to have Evensong more often – perhaps every two or three months.

Carol Simmons



Oh dear - Christmas carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: "I understand – our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases."

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. "No," he whispered back. "It's just that I am a musician!"



"I'm sorry Michael – even if you HAVE changed your ring-tone to 'Away In-A-Manger', it's still ALL mobiles OFF!"

My Old Bible

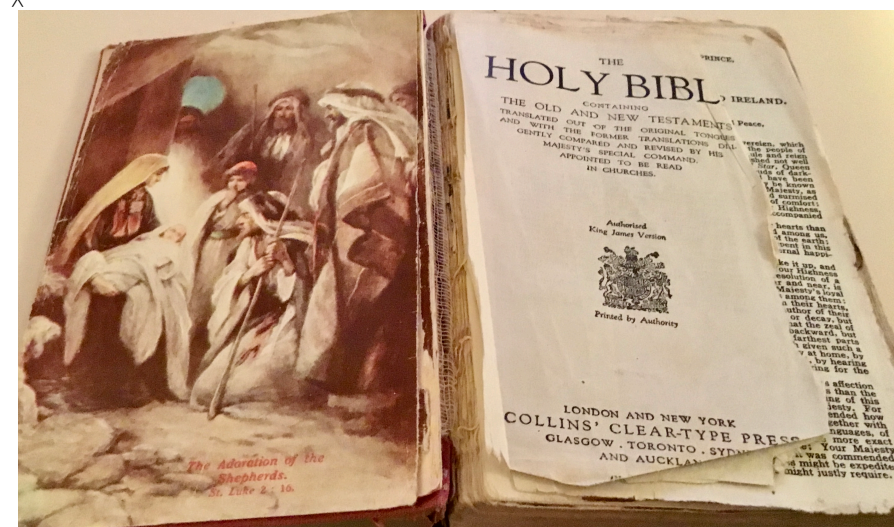
I was asked to do a reading at the recent Sung Evensong service at St Thomas's, which gave me much pleasure. It got me thinking about how old my Bible was, I'm afraid it's a bit tatty now. I was so proud when I received it in 1945 from my Auntie Rose because it had pictures in it, and my sister's one did not. I think I showed it off to all at Sunday School as I was so proud of it,

Now in 1951 Auntie Rose gave me another bigger new Bible, leather bound in a box which I kept it in, and it's still in it today, because my first Bible served me well and still does.

Christmas is rapidly coming round again and my favourite time as a child was when the wax candles were lit on the Christmas tree and we sat round singing all the carols we knew. Magic!

This year it will be a bit different, but I'd like to take this opportunity of sending all the Tattler's readers my warmest wishes for Christmas and the New Year, with God's blessing.

Eileen A. Davie



*Eileen's Bible, with the picture of
The adoration of the shepherds*

Just a thought:

Love is what is in the room with you at Christmas, if you stop opening presents for a minute and look around. – Anon

in the Steps of Palladio, Giotto, and Veronese - Part 2



La Rotunda



Room in Villa Rotunda

We started our third day with a visit to Palladio's most famous building, the Villa Almerico Capra Valmarana, known as La Rotunda. I had last seen it in 1960 when driving home from Beirut with a friend, was longing to see it again and was certainly not disappointed. Built between 1565 and 1569 it must be the most influential of all his villas, and inside we admired the riot of stucco-framed frescoed decorations by the French fresco painter Louis Dorigny (1654-1742).

We then made our way to the hills north of Vicenza for a private visit to the Villa Godi Malinverni at Lonedgo. This is probably the earliest work designed by Palladio in his own right and was built between 1537 and 1542. Alterations were made a few years later when new fresco decorations were planned, some being by Giovanni Battista Zelotti (1526-1578). It is frankly amazing that both buildings and frescoes are in such good condition despite being nearly 500 years old. The remainder of the day was free, enabling me to enjoy the hotel's open air pool!

Next morning we travelled towards the Veneto town of Treviso, to visit the exterior of the nearby Villa Chiericati da Porto Rigo. Built for the powerful Chiericati family of Vicenza in 1550, it was Palladio's first villa design to feature a classical temple front, although the villa was completed after his death.

We continued to the village of Piombino Dese to view the exterior of Palladio's Villa Cornaro, before going on to the Villa Ca Marcello for a visit and private lunch, hosted by Count Jacopo Marcello. This is one of the finest early eighteenth century villas in the Veneto, clearly inspired by Palladian prototypes. It is unusual in that it retains not only its original contents but also



Villa Ca Marcello

continues in ownership and occupation by the Marcello family, and is surrounded by a fascinating collection of gardens and an ancient arboretum.

A half day followed to two quite different villas, both inspired by Palladio's travel to Rome. Villa Poiana was built in 1549 for a military member of the Pojana family, its austere design being inspired by Palladio's visit to Rome's Diocletian Baths. We then travelled westwards to the Villa Pisani Bonetti at Bagnolo. Built from 1542, it was commissioned by the Pisani brothers, all three members of the powerful Venetian



Villa Poiana

family. It is a country residence reflective of the refined tastes of the Pisanis and a promise of things to come in Palladio's remarkable career. We then had a relaxing afternoon back at the hotel.



Villa Valmarana

his son Giandomenico in the 1750s. Our visit was hosted by the villa's owner Countess Carolina Valmarana who was also our guide, and with her husband, gave us dinner in the villa's frescoed summer annex. We were lucky to be dining when a cracking thunderstorm passed over!

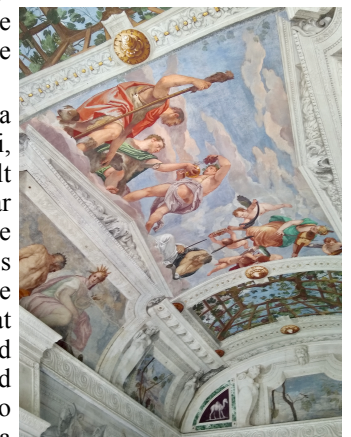
We left our hotel the following morning for a longish drive to the Villa Barbaro-Lulling Buschetti, one of Palladio's most famous compositions, built between 1549 and 1558 for the humanist scholar brothers, Daniele and Marc'Antonio Barbaro. The villa stands apart from all other villas within Palladio's oeuvre because of the amazing quality of the fresco decorations. These are by Paolo Veronese, the great Venetian painter, and were painted between 1560 and 1562. Using a very clever technique, the frescoes had been removed for safe keeping during WW2. Close to Venice, the villa is certainly worth a visit and sits in a stunningly beautiful location.

Our tour ended with a most delicious lunch in a restaurant in Cornuda called Le Corderie, before we were taken to Venice Marco Polo Airport for our return flights. We booked our luggage right through to Aberdeen, and to our surprise and delight our cases were first on the carousel there.

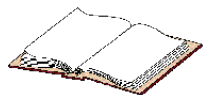
Marcus Humphrey June 2024



Villa Barbaro



Villa Barbaro frescoes



Readings for December, 2024 and January 2025

1st December ADVENT SUNDAY	Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Susan Smith	Sue and Warren Burgess
8th December Advent 2	Malachi 3:1-4 Philippians 1:3-11 Luke 3:1-6	Margaret Jaffray Ewen	Anne Harper
15th December Advent 3 Gaudete Sunday	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Philippians 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Sabrina Humphrey	Carol Simmons
22nd December Advent 4	Micah 5:2-5a Hebrews 10:5-10 Luke 1:39-45	Anne Richardson	Isabel Wilson
24th December Midnight Communion	Isaiah 52:7-10 Hebrews 1:1-4 John 1:1-14	N/A	Michael Bruce
25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	Isaiah 9:2-7 Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14	Marcus Humphrey	The Aboyne Family
29th December Christmas 1	Jeremiah 31:7-14 Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18	Hilary Mutch	Andrew Wilson
5th January Epiphany Sunday	Isaiah 60:1-6 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12	Sabine Muir	Anne Harper
12th January Epiphany 2 St Hilary	1 John 2:18-25 Psalm 37:3-6,32-33 Luke 12:8-12	Sabrina Humphrey	Carol Simmons
19th January Epiphany 3	Isaiah 62:1-5 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 John 2:1-11	Stanley Ewen	Andrew Wilson
26th January Epiphany 4	Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Luke 4:14-21	Margaret Jaffrey Ewen	Meg White

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

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:

1st December,

'The Advent Calendar'.

5th January, 'We Three Kings'



A Hymn for Advent

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

By Thy own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thy all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Charles Wesley

From the Bible for the young and not so young

The story of the wise men



The coming of the wise men to see the baby Jesus is one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. We have all sung 'We three Kings of Orient are' at Christmas time. But what was it all about?

The Kings brought gifts that were highly meaningful to the birth of this special baby. The gold was for an earthly King, King of the Jews. Then Frankincense was a symbol of deity, meaning that the baby Jesus was in fact God. They were saying that this Baby Jesus came from heaven, to be a man on earth, both man and God.

But the third gift, myrrh, is a symbol of death, it was a perfume, used to anoint dead bodies. And this was a warning of what was to come. The carol sums it up wonderfully:

“Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb”

But then - “Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice.”

And what made the Kings journey so far to see this Baby? We are told that wise men came from the east to Jerusalem, searching for a baby who was born King of the Jews. They had seen his Star in the east, and they had come to worship him. Now, Herod was King at this time, and he certainly did not want another King to be appearing. He got the chief priests and scribes together, and they pointed out that the 'prophet' had said a ruler would come out of Bethlehem. (*Look up the prophet Micah ch 5*) So he craftily got hold of the wise men, told them to go and search in Bethlehem, find this 'King', then come back and tell him where he was. He said this was so that he could go and worship him himself, but of course he meant nothing of the sort, he meant to get rid of him.

So the wise men went their way, found Jesus, and fell down to worship him. They opened the presents, and then left for home without going back to Herod, after a dream had warned them not to. And an angel of the Lord came to Joseph in a dream, warning him to flee with Jesus to Egypt, as he was in danger from Herod.

And sure enough Herod was furious that the wise men had played a trick on him. He was so angry that he ordered that all the young children in Bethlehem should be killed, to make sure they got rid of this future King. It caused all the heartbreak we read of in some of the carols, but Jesus was safe, thanks to the angel of the Lord.

Then as the carol puts it:

“Alleluia, alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.”

O star of wonder, star of light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading,, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light



The Cat that came in from the cold - more news



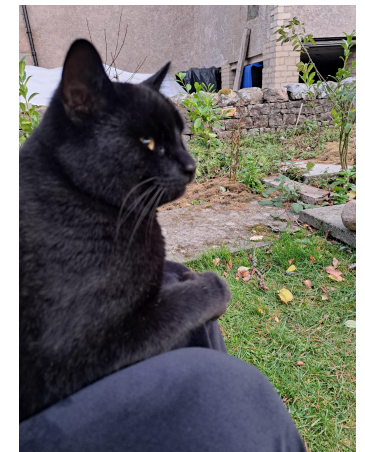
Where is she?



I'm coming!



*Home - but where have
the Builders got to?*

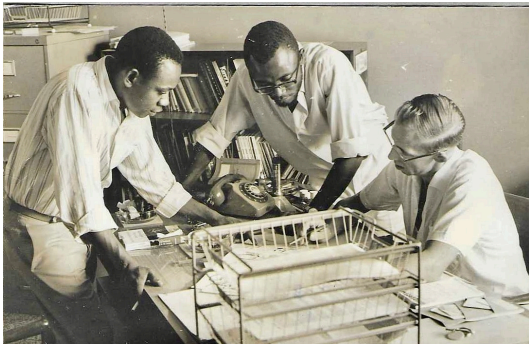


Bliss!

This Cat brings me comfort and such joy - true blessing
Helen

Travel – Welcoming arrivals then and now!

Were we lucky or was it a disaster that our first overseas assignment arrival enabled us to experience the last days of what has become known as “the Raj.” A left over from the years of British domination over India, as it would be described today, or a sophisticated organisational system that looked after it’s adherents. I’m for the latter. We had left Newcastle-upon-Tyne just after a heavy snowstorm which caused us to miss the daily flight to Nigeria . This was then compounded by missing the twice weekly internal flight to Enugu, so we had been travelling for three days when we finally arrived at our destination. Awaiting us at the local airport was an elderly British welfare officer (ex Indian Civil Service) who explained the situation during our 40 mile journey into the bush countryside.



Discussing plans with my staff, Nigeria

I went to work for the Nigerian Cement Company in their new Trade School. The company had made available a furnished bungalow, stocked up some basic food items and engaged a steward on a week’s notice; it had also provided linen, pots and pans, crockery and cutlery until ours arrived by ship. He suggested that we have a shower and rest after our journey and meet him at the company club around 4 pm when he would introduce us to our colleagues and their wives.

“Oh, and by-the-way, the General Manager and his wife would like you to join them for dinner at 8pm (dark suit).” The temperature was 35C!

Prior to our departure Tunnel Portland Cement’s MD had invited both Jean and myself to London to ascertain that we would make suitable expatriates, and a week or so after our arrival in Nigeria the Company lent me £1000 to purchase a new car!

Contrast that experience with a country arrival 30 years later; this time in Surabaya, Indonesia. I went as a consultant to the government-run Water Authority. Arriving on a Saturday lunchtime there was nobody to meet us at the airport. After hassle over taxis – Jeans wheelchair and our cases were too much - we settled on a minibus and ended up at the local Hilton on ground staff recommendation.

Next day I took the hotel bus into town and found the water department offices. On the Monday morning all public transport was on strike, so the hotel bus took me to the office. Enquiries there took me to a 1st floor office where no-one had heard of my company and re-directed me to the 4th floor. Once again no knowledge of my existence, so sent back to 1st floor offices where this time they thought they’d had a

fax about my appointment a week or so ago. The clerk in charge then said I could use the desk in the corner. I had to share the office car at the end of the day and it took over a month to get my own transport and suitable accommodation.



The water authority HO in Indonesia

Has the world changed for the better?

Peter Sowrey



Aboyne-Dinnet Church events

Saturday 30th November: Christmas Bazaar and Coffee Morning in the church hall from 10:00 to 12:00. All the usual stalls. (entry Adults £4, concession £3, children £1, under 3s free)

Sunday 1st December, first Sunday in Advent, at Aboyne-Dinnet Church, 6:30 pm. We will sing wonderful Advent hymns and be reminded through Scripture what Advent is all about. The service will be candle-lit and live-streamed!
Friday, 13th December, Carolling at the Boat Inn: 8.pm. Please come and join us for 45 minutes of carol singing - hot punch and mince pies will be served, courtesy of the Boat Inn.

Saturday, 21st December, Carol singing in the village: at 2pm. We will meet outside the Corner House at 2pm under the motto "Joy to the World" and move through the village. We will be at Bonty Court at 2.45pm, and at Allachburn at 3.30pm.. Please come and join in for just one carol or until we stop singing.



All Saints Day

During the All-Saints Day service, the children at St Thomas Church made a **Faith Tree**.

Making a family tree is fun but can be a bit tricky because sometimes we don't know very much about our great-grandparents and the generation before

them. We know who helped to raise us, like our parents, our grandparents, aunties and uncles, or any of the other important people in our families. If we have siblings, we could add those to our family trees.

But we also have a faith family, which connects us to people all around the world, and to people who have already died. Our faith family tree goes all the way back to the Bible and people like Abraham, Moses, Miriam, and Sarah. We are connected to all the apostles and lots of other people who pop up in the Bible. We are connected to the saints who were especially close to God. Some saints were prophets or messengers of God. Others were healers, and people who did good deeds.

Hang on a minute - if we pray and become close to God, do good deeds, and are kind to people, we can be saints too!

All these people belong to our faith family. That means you and I are family – even if we aren't related! That means everyone in this church is part of your family. Everyone in the church in our neighbouring towns and villages is part of your family. Our faith family tree is so big that we can't even see everyone who is a part of it. But all of us are connected because of God, and because of Jesus. He is the one who holds us all together.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you for all the names on our faith family tree. We don't know all the names of the people in your family, but you do. Help us to keep growing and to keep remembering. We pray this in your name, Amen.

Sabine Muir



The All Saints Faith Tree signifies people who have passed away in the shape of a dove; and the living saints we know, in the shape of living leaves on the tree.

All Saints service at St Kentigern's

When I saw the final hymn, 'When the Saints go marching in' on the Service Sheet for All Saints Day and saw that we were welcoming Vesper through Baptism into the Church, I knew exactly what we needed to accompany the hymn - PERCUSSION. It was so lovely to see, and hear, the children marching up and down the aisle. They were with the Christening Party, and we hope to have them back visiting at Christmas

Anne R.



Baptism of Vesper Woodman

Vesper was baptised in St Kentigern's, with parents Daisy Woodman and Jonathan Woodman, and grandparents Julia and David Woodman engaged in the service with him.

Here, the candle is being lit after the baptism, symbolising the Light of Christ.





Little Robin

Christmas time, Christmas time
The little robin sings
Go tell the world and toll the bell
And make the rafters ring.
Good news, good news, he says
From Bethlehem afar
A Son is born to Mary under
A bright and shining star.

On bed of hay, or bed of straw
Our little Robin cheeps
While Joseph watches carefully
The Baby fast asleep.
And angels brought the shepherds
Who on their knees do pray
As three wise men arrive with gifts
From a land so far away.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna
And listen to his story
Of Mary and her Precious Son
Go praise our King of glory.
On Christmas morn , Christmas morn
Rise up and start the day
And feed the little robin
We hope he's here to stay.

Eileen A. Davies



Congratulations and Commiserations

Baptisms

Vesper Woodman was baptised in St Kentigern's in November.
Please pray for him and the family.

Weddings

Dr Stanley Ewen and Mrs Margaret Jaffray were married in St Kentigern's in October

Iain McIntosh and Janet Morley were married in St Thomas' in November
Please pray for these couples at this new stage of their lives together.

Funeral

The funeral of Gwen Andrew took place at Baldarroch Crematorium in September
Please pray for her family and friends at this time.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Helen Dray on passing her Anna Chaplaincy Course.
Anna Chaplains are chaplains which specialise in spiritual care for elderly people.
She will be officially commissioned in her home church sometime in the New Year



Stanley and Maggie
cutting the Wedding Cake
at their Reception
at Ravenswood



WEB-SITES

St Thomas's Web-site has been transferred and upgraded. It has also been possible to return the photos in the Tattler to their original colour. The 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

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

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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 Sabrina Humphrey
Tel 013398 85233

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 January 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

ST. KENTIGERN'S

Marcus Humphrey
Sabine Muir
Hilary Mutch
Sabrina Humphrey
Margaret Jaffray Ewen
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, Lara Elson
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, Sue Burgess