

# The Deeside Tattler

August and September 2025



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



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## **Dates for the Diary**

**5th August, 2pm** Service at Praesmohr

**9th - 17th August, Ballater Victoria Week**

**Tuesday 12th August 2.30 - 4.00pm.** Afternoon Tea at St Kentigern's Hall

**10th August, 2.30pm** Hot Chocolate Walk

**12th August 11.30am** Mid-week Communion at St Thomas's,  
followed by soup lunch at 12 noon

**17th August, 6.00pm** Evening of Praise at St Thomas's

**31st August, 10.30am** Joint Service with the two churches, at St Thomas's  
**6.30pm** Church of Scotland service at Coull church

**14th September 7pm** Ken Webb will be introducing Taize chanting at Coull Church

**28th September 6.30pm** Church of Scotland service at Coull church

**Services during the Interregnum** will continue as normal at St Kentigern's and St Thomas's, with regular Sunday services at 9.30am at St Kentigern's and 11.15am at St Thomas's. The informal Morning Worship will be lay-led by teams from each church, alternately. For the rest, we are very grateful that the Communion Services will be presided over by a rota of clergy who have been willing to come to us, some from quite a distance. Our thanks go in particular to Rev Dr Ken Webb, Rev Mike Blake, Rev John Walker, Rev John Purves and Rev Dr Andrew Wilson.

**From the Editor:** The Upper Deeside Churches now seem to be settling into a routine during the interregnum. Vittoria has regretfully left us, although her influence is still with us. This is partly because she left so much in the way of services etc in preparation for us, and partly because we were used to her ways over eleven years, and much of it has become habit, and the way we like things. The services on the first of the month show this in a remarkable way, they remain the informal, lively services we were used to, thanks to those who are leading them. We hope to continue along the same lines in the meantime. One day we will have a new Rector - and change, new ways of doing things, and hopefully more growth! This magazine still contains more about Vittoria, especially about the wonderful Party Marcus and Sabrina hosted for us. But things go on, the St Kentigern's Fayre took place as usual, other things are happening, and we have our usual range of interesting articles of all sorts. Our thanks again to all who contributed - do keep them coming! **Ed**

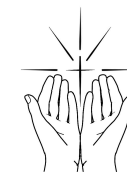
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## **Letter from Andrew Wilson**



Dear Friends,

I count it a privilege to have been asked by Sheila Maxwell, our Tattler editor, to write the first pastoral letter since our Rector Vittoria concluded her ministry among us.

In the past two months I have attended the farewell services of two much loved ministers. One was Vittoria and the other was Euan Glen, the Church of Scotland Minister at Cluny and Monymusk who had spent his whole ministry of 33 years there, following his Probationary year with me as his 'bishop' in Rubislaw Church of Scotland in Aberdeen.

Each of these ministers in my opinion represent fully the qualities and dedication needed for the Ordained Ministry of Word and Sacrament. In particular I would want through this pastoral letter to pay a tribute to Vittoria whose ministry among us of 11 years we gratefully commemorated at the end of May. In every service of worship I attended I saw Vittoria offering her best in careful preparation and with prayerful imagination leading us in worship that was always memorable and challenging, and I am grateful for the gentle simplicity and inclusiveness with which she invited us to celebrate the Sacraments of Communion and Baptism, calling us into real experiences of the Sacred and Holy.

She was to us a most caring pastor and friend, but as was evident from the wide range of people who were at her leaving party hosted by Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey at Rhu Na Haven, the reach of Vittoria's pastoral involvement and community connection went far beyond the congregations of St Kentigern's and St. Thomas's. Present at that party were school head teachers, team members of youth clubs, clergy of all church denominations and people from a full range of community groups in Upper Deeside.



Any priest or minister of the Scottish Episcopal Church or the Church of Scotland is also required to make a commitment to the wider work of their diocese or presbytery. Vittoria played her full part in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney, yet she never spoke of this aspect of her ministry ostentatiously, but with a quiet modesty which underplayed the amount of time and energy she spent on it.

We now need to move forward and build on the many strengths of the past 11 years and on the years before them that stretch back to the beginning of our churches. You use the word 'interregnum' to describe the time between the leaving of one rector and the appointment of a successor. In the tradition of the Church of Scotland we speak of 'vacancy'. The time between one rector going and another coming is neither a time without a 'ruler' or an 'empty' season in a church. It is a time of prayer and faithfulness.

We are all called to pray for our churches through this time, for those in special need of our prayers in illness, stress and sorrow, and for those now with the added responsibility laid on them. We are also called to be faithful in regular worship, generous giving, and to be a lively, loving community of faith, witnessing to and serving Christ.

May we be faithful to our calling.

Every blessing,

**Andrew Wilson**

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### **Forthcoming events:**

\*There will be services at Praesmohr on 5th August and 7th October. Anyone is welcome to go along and give your support.

\*At St Thomas's, there will be a mid-week Communion and soup lunch on 12th August, and everyone is welcome to come to one or both of these, and join in the fellowship. If one is planned for September, it will be advertised later.

St Kentigern's are taking a break from this over the summer.

\*Ballater Victoria Week: There will be an afternoon tea at St Kentigern's Hall on Tuesday 12th August from 2.30 - 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome.

\*Sue is running another Hot Chocolate Walk for members of both churches on 10th August at 2.30pm. Details will be given nearer the time. Do join her in a gentle and companionable stroll through the lovely countryside.

### **Fund-raising for Coull Church**



Vittoria gave a story-telling evening recently in Coull Kirk to help raise funds for purchasing Coull Kirk for the Community. She entranced her audience with folk stories from local and Welsh sources interspersed with songs sung in her lovely clear voice. The event was well attended and raised over £400 in donations, a wonderful start to the overall campaign. Coull Trust representatives were delighted and would like to thank her for donating her time and talent.

### **Coull church**

Wondering what's happening at Coull Kirk? The Cromar Future Group has until the end of the year to complete a Community buy-out, so we are busy fundraising. You can help us by visiting or coming to our events. We love to see you, and we love to get your views on what we are doing. Every Tuesday we open the Kirk to visitors from 10am until 3pm

### **Next Events at Coull Church:**

**Sunday 7th September, 2.30 pm.** Alastair Scott, the popular local author, will be talking about "Eccentric Wealth - the Bulloughs Of Rum." This is part of the Aboyne and Deeside Festival and can be booked on their web-site, or buy a ticket on the door.

**Sunday 14th September, 7 pm.** Ken Webb will be introducing us to Christian Taizé chanting first developed in France

**20/21st September.** We are participating in the Open Doors weekend. Some time during this period we are also planning a Doric storytelling event

There are also **Church of Scotland services** scheduled, on 27/7, 31/8 and 28/9, 6.30 pm. For more information, contact [secretary@coulltrust.org.uk](mailto:secretary@coulltrust.org.uk) and they will email you the details



## Vittoria's Leaving Party



A grand 'Thank you' celebration for Vittoria took place at the end of May, generously hosted by Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey at their home, Rhu-na-Haven. Over a hundred people turned up to say goodbye to her and wish her well. Marcus and Sabrina had the house cleared and prepared, and members of both churches helped, bringing in tables for the food, plenty chairs for those who wanted to sit down, and a wonderful spread of food of all kinds,



We were greeted with drinks on arrival - not all alcoholic - and after a bit, there were so many people crowded into a very large lounge that some were encouraged to go through to the splendid library. Vittoria was in great form, moving round to say hallo to different people, all very happily - she probably managed to speak to everyone there, in spite of the huge crowd.

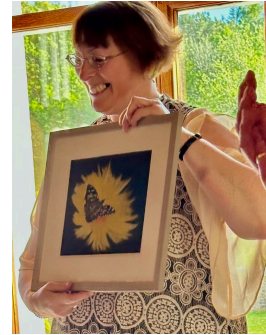


It was a lovely evening, and later some of the guests went outside to enjoy the scene - and to watch the children enjoying themselves on the swings! All were catered for.



A focus of the evening was the speech made by Marcus, an appreciation of all that Vittoria had meant to us during her eleven years as Rector. He spoke both of the hard work she had put in, in the running of our churches, and the inspiration she has provided, in the way she worked among us.

Marcus then presented Vittoria, from St Kentigern's congregation, with a beautifully vibrant painting of a butterfly on a flower, painted by Jan Williams; and also picture of Lochnagar, painted by Janice McIlwain, who lives in Ballater.



Both pictures were well wrapped up, and things became a bit more informal as the Rider children helped her to unwrap them!

The formal proceedings finished with Vittoria cutting into a huge Black Forest gateau, made by Leslie Thomas, of course! - Vittoria's favourite cake. This was cut up and distributed to everyone, and was gorgeous



People started to leave after that, and there were many warm farewells and hugs going as people said goodbye and thank you to Vittoria. She has been a remarkable,, warm and caring Rector, much loved by many people. We wish her well in her future.



## The St Kentigern's Summer Fayre



The St Kentigern's Summer Fayre was well attended, and £2803.64 was raised  
There were the usual variety of stalls.



cake and candy stall



books



a bottle stall, with Marcus  
overseeing usual



A well-stocked plant stall included  
plants donated by Birkhall, and  
geraniums and other plants  
contributed by Marcus and  
Sabrina.

Teas and coffees were served with home-baking.



## The Queen's Gift



The Queen kindly donated  
a Highgrove celebration hamper;  
which was won by a delighted  
Robert Deeming,



## Vestry responsibilities for Stewardship – part 3

Following on from my previous articles, the leadership of our church – ie the rector and vestry - have unique responsibilities for the stewardship of our resources, although this can be shared with the congregation.

During the interregnum, we are fortunate that Vittoria left us in a great place in terms of “time, talent and treasure” – encouraging the congregation to participate in the organisational aspects of the church and preaching about the theology behind the responsibility of giving.

Tithing is often mentioned as the biblical standard – one tenth of one's income-10%.

In Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42 Jesus discussed the Pharisees' practice of tithing – even down to small herbs like mint and dill. But he also emphasises that tithing should not replace justice, mercy and faithfulness.

In the present day, I asked Google what percentage of income most Christians give on a monthly basis, and whether I believe everything I read on Google or not, it seems the figure is an average 3.2% after tax – 2.5% of which goes to Christian causes, and the rest to other charities. People give what they can afford, and for that we are grateful.

The vestry need to nurture the resources given to us to further the mission of the church, managing the money, property and human resources of the congregation.

Anne sent out the 5 year plan which the Vestry of St Thomas have been developing – I'm sure St Kentigern's are doing the same. It sets out our aims and dreams and actions to succeed. This document sets out clearly how the vestry are taking our responsibility seriously. It is worth reading this plan and thinking about how you can contribute to its success.

Everyone has some time, talent or treasure to share.

**"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,  
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." 1 Peter 4:10:**

Sue Burgess



## PASSAGE ALONG THE ELBE, April-May 2025. Part One

Pam and Richard Marsh joined us on this River Cruise organized by Noble Caledonia, as we had had such a good time on our previous river cruise up the Danube from the Black Sea, to Amsterdam on the Rhine. An early flight to Prague meant an overnight stay in Terminal 3 at Heathrow, the downside of living in the north east of Scotland! On arrival in Prague we were transferred to our ship, the Ms Elbe Princess, which was moored at Melnik.

After a good night's rest, we were taken by coach to Prague Castle, and other interesting places including the famous Charles Bridge which stands aside the Vltava river, then on to lunch at the Hotel Esplanade. Known as the "City of a hundred spires", Prague's architectural harmony was enhanced by post 1945 planning which preserved the ancient core of the city, which in 1992 was added to UNESCO's World Heritage list.



*Prague Castle*



*Saxon Switzerland Germany  
rock formations*

home to the oldest preserved barracks in Germany, which was never conquered. This "Bastille of Saxony" once kept the porcelain inventor, Johann Friedrich Boettger, from being approached by other princes, and the famous double sword mark on Meissen porcelain was derived from the sword in Saxony's coat of arms.



*Konigstein Fortress*

The rest of the cruise was spent in what was East Germany, and we sailed to Litomerice for our next excursion, an hour and a half's coach journey to Bastei to see the Saxon Switzerland National Park. Although mostly covered in forest, the park is composed of fissured and rocky canyon landscapes with a wide array of habitats, including the "City of Stone" and the rock bridge. There is a 487 step staircase that ascends out of the valley up into the rocks, but we declined this challenge!

After lunch at the Bastei Panorama Hotel, we were taken by coach to the Konigstein Fortress,

In November last year, one of the relatively modern concrete bridges over the Elbe at Dresden collapsed into the river (shades of the Aboyne concrete bridge?), and had not been completely cleared. This meant that we had to pack and leave our ship, and transfer to a sister ship further along the river which was a nuisance but we had been warned this would happen.

We had a fascinating tour of the city and were amazed at how beautifully it had been rebuilt after Allied bombing had flattened it during WWII. In particular the famous Frauenkirche had been fully restored from a pile of rubble with meticulous attention to every detail, using the original stone wherever possible. It really is a joy to behold, and was topped in 2004 with a cross built by a British silversmith who was a son of one of the pilots who had dropped the bombs.



*Frauenkirche, Dresden*



*Meissen factory*

We were checked into the Occidental Hotel for the night, which was very comfortable, and told we would join our new ship in Meissen the following morning. For various reasons including low water in the Elbe, this did not happen, and it was the following evening after a long coach drive, that we finally went aboard at Wittenburg. In between we had a fascinating trip to Meissen, untouched by the War, visited the Meissen porcelain factory and watched their skilled craft workers producing beautiful porcelain items for which they are world famous but not cheap – a coffee mug costs 95 euros! Even so, the factory is supported financially by the State, to keep it going and maintain the skills of the craft workers.

**Marcus Humphrey**

**Cheers, Marcus!**

Marcus celebrated his 87th Birthday during the cruise.

Helped by Sabrina!







## Readings for August and September 2025

3rd August Trinity 7	Hosea 11:1-11 Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 12:13-21	Sabine Muir	Sue and Warren Burgess
10th August Trinity 8	Genesis 15:1-6 Hebrews 11:1-3 Luke 12:32-40	Susan Smith	Christopher and Margaret Heald
17th August Trinity 9	Jeremiah 23:23-29 Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2 Luke 12:49-56	Hilary Mutch	Jill Binns
24th August Trinity 10	Isaiah 58:9b-14 Hebrews 12:18-29 Luke 13:10-17	Sabrina Humphrey	Irene Legge
31st August Trinity 11	Proverbs 25:6-7 Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14	Marcus Humphrey	Isabel Wilson
7th September Trinity 12	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Philemon 1:21 Luke 14: 25-33	Susan Smith	Rider family
14th September Trinity 13	Exodus 32:7-14 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10	Stanley Ewen	Anne Harper
21st September Trinity 14	Amos 8:4-7 1 Timothy 2:1-7 Luke 16:1-13	Maggie Jaffray Ewen	Jill Binns
28th September Trinity 15	Amos 6:1a, 4-7 1 Timothy 6:6-19 Luke 16:19-31	Sabrina Humphrey	Carol Birss

### CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

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

1st Sunday Morning Worship  
2nd Sunday Holy Communion 1982  
3rd Sunday Holy Communion 1970  
4th Sunday Holy Communion 1982  
5th Sunday Morning Prayer

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

Morning Worship  
Holy Communion 1982  
Holy Communion 1970  
Family Communion  
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.

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## 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. During the Interregnum, they will be led by members of the congregations of St Kentigern's and St Thomas's alternately.

The next services are:

**3rd August** Rich Fools

(led by St Thomas's)

**7th September**

What does it cost to be a disciple of Jesus  
(led by St Kentigern's)

## Longing for Communion

Travelling further away  
I feel untethered  
The cord which binds us  
Has been separated  
I long for stability  
For a place of belonging  
For communion

I yearn for bread and wine  
To belong with the body  
Who are joined in love  
Take this bread  
Drink this wine  
And remember  
We are one in Christ

The miles separate  
Time moves on  
From hour to day  
The cord once thought broken  
is strong still  
In bread and wine we meet  
In communion we love  
and hope and pray

*Vittoria Hancock*



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

### The calling of the first disciples



There is a story from right at the end of Jesus's ministry, when after He rose from the dead, he appeared to the disciples who were fishing but not catching anything. Jesus told them to cast the nets the other side, and they were just loaded with fish after that - and realised it was Jesus with them!

At the beginning of His ministry, there is a similar story. Jesus had been called by the Holy Spirit at the River Jordan, had announced the start of His ministry in the local Synagogue, and been thoroughly rejected.

He went on to Capernaum, was teaching there, with the people astonished by His teaching. Jesus also drove out the Demon from a man with an 'unclean spirit', which so amazed those who were there that the story spread far and wide, and Jesus was becoming known.

St Luke tells us that Jesus then left the synagogue, and went to the home of Simon. When he got there, Simon told Him that his mother-in-law was ill with a fever. So Jesus stood over her, and we are told that He rebuked the fever, which then left her, fully healed.

After all this, Jesus wanted a bit of peace, and went to the lakeside - but it was not to be, the people were pressing round Him so much that when he saw a boat nearby, empty as the fishers were out washing their nets, He got in ready to preach from there. And the boat was Simon's. He asked Simon to put out a little from the shore.

When Jesus had finished preaching to the people He told Simon to go into the deeper water and get a catch of fish. Simon protested that he had been trying all night and caught nothing. But he did as Jesus said - and this time they caught an enormous catch of fish.

Peter was overcome. He fell down before Jesus and said to leave him he was just a sinner. But Jesus said to him 'Do not be afraid. You will now be catching men, not fish'. And along with his partners James and John, Simon left everything they had, and followed Jesus.

## Garden Opening at Rhu-na-haven

On 1st July, Marcus and Sabrina Humphrey opened their beautiful garden to members of the Ballater RHS, and also to members of both churches' congregations. All proceeds were to go to the St Kentigern's funds.

The weather was pleasant as people admired the garden, overflowing with flowers, vegetables and fruit.





## My Unique Experiences

It all started earlier this year. I had attended an Aboyne Probus meeting where the speaker had talked about his experiences with the Antarctic Survey. As I had been down in that region I went over to have a chat.

It turned out that I was the first Whaler he'd met so we had a lot in common.

Months later I got a call from the Club Secretary to ask if I would be prepared to meet the speaker re a possible article. I agreed and a meeting took place in June during which he confirmed my unique experiences were worth writing down for prosperity.

The episode started me thinking about some of the other unique experiences that I have had; there are many...you may be interested.

In 1961 I was 2nd engineer on the cargo ship Saldura and we sailed into Niigata in Japan to find we were the first British ship to call since the war ended. The city mayor put on a reception to celebrate.

In 1966 I was establishing an artisan training school in Eastern Nigeria and completed my contract one week before the Biafran War started. My colleagues had to be evacuated by the Americans and lost everything.

In 1968 I accepted a job in Benghazi, Libya, when King Idris was monarch (before Gaddafi rebelled)...drove there in my car, stayed 10 days, (it was awful), then drove home again. Ten years later on another assignment to Libya I was to accidentally meet and shake hands with Col Gaddafi.

In the late 60s I was offered the post of Station Engineer at RAF Sharjah. I didn't accept it. It was too isolated and few facilities.

In 1975 I took a job as installation engineer/project manager with G.D.Searle in Abu Dhabi. There were only two hotels..the Hilton and 2 star Lebanese property. I stayed at the Hilton only to find on two occasions that the hotel had been taken over by the ruler for his guests and that my belongings had been moved to the Lebanese. It reminded me that 12 years before my stay the local Arabs had never seen a car - travel was by camel only as described by the explorer Wilfred Thessiger on his crossing of the Empty Quarter. Today Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah are all close to each other in the United Arab Emirates. (See photos of Dubai)



In 1989 I was on an assignment with the British Government in Lesotho when Jean and I met the King and Queen of Lesotho at an official ceremony, resulting in a request that we invite the Queen to our home for dinner. Jean could tell you more.

In 1992 we were in Mozambique when the civil war ended and as communications were re-established we watched as the first train from Pretoria came into Maputo. It was the famous "Pride of Africa" steam train run by Rovos Rail, and the station was decorated 1920s style with a formal reception by the British Ambassador. I was able to take a look over it.



Back home in 1998 I finished my year as President of the Rotary Club of Richmond upon Thames by hosting Dame Vera Lynn at a concert in Ham House gardens.

It's been quite a life!

**Peter Sowrey**

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## Evening of Praise, 17th August 2025, 6.00pm

The Evening of Praise has become a yearly event for the St Thomas Augmented Choir. It is a good flexible sort of event, with hymns for the congregation to sing being the main feature. But singing a lot of hymns one after the other is quite exhausting, so between the hymns comes a series of items, that varies from year to year according to what is available.

The choir always takes the opportunity to sing at least three anthems, not too long. This year, there is a repeat of anthems that the choir has already sung, well worth another hearing. Rutter is a favourite composer, the choir has sung many of his works, especially his carols. This time they are singing the very beautiful blessing 'The Lord Bless you and keep you'. In contrast is the stirring piece 'Praise ye the Lord', by Alan Bullard. We are also singing an earlier anthem of mine, a setting of the poem by Vittoria, 'Magnificat!' Nothing do with the biblical Magnificat - more an expression of the wonder and joy of nature.

There will also be readings, solos, instrumental music among other things, yet to be decided. And the evening will round off with the usual social time with light refreshments for all. We hope that everyone will want to come!

**Sheila Maxwell**

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## Music appreciation

The music critic enthused: "Here is Tchaikovsky at his best. Music so beautiful that it has to be heard to be appreciated."

A lot of music is like that!

## School Days

In 1941 on fifteenth of April, just past Easter when I was five years old, at eight thirty in the morning, I left home in Parkvilla to walk to Strathdon School, Poldhullie, with my big sister, Sheila. I was armed with a school satchel on my back containing my PIECE for my lunch, and over my shoulder my gas mask. We set off up the Sealy Hillock, round by Tornashean, passed the Toll house, Bridgeview and Scotsbank arriving at the school about twenty minutes later.



In those days there were only two classrooms with a folding wall in the middle, the headmaster's office, and boys and girls cloak rooms where we hung our coats, the toilets were outside and very primitive, two playgrounds for boys and girls, an open shelter shed where we could stay dry if it rained or snowed, also a shed for bikes if you were lucky enough to have one or if you lived a long way from school.

Miss Lilla Forsyth was our teacher and she taught five classes in her room, Lower Infants, Higher Infants, Primary One., Two and Three. Above the big old black stove there was a sign saying how many pupils there were and I think it said 48.

Our Dominee, Mr. John M. Duthie, occupied the other room with Primary Four and Five also Secondary, One, Two and Three and over a similar black stove a sign saying 47.

The whistle blew so we all lined up outside to get in and myself and three boys were welcomed in by Miss Forsyth given a desk each and a slate with slate pencil to Lower Infants.

We were then instructed to do gas mark drill with all the other pupils. Your voice sounded very peculiar when speaking through one's mask, made us giggle, but it was wartime so we had to be prepared. I was the only girl in my class at Strathdon school apart from one time when the local Bobby's daughter attended. In those days they moved the police ever so often, think it was every three years.

We had an interval during the morning for a few minutes when we all rushed outside, we didn't get milk then only some years later when we got a cup of milk from Candacraig dairy and I think the older pupils had to wash up the cups. Lunchtime was an hour and after our PIECE was devoured, the girls played lots of games outside like skipping, rounders or ball up against a wall.

We were not allowed to speak Doric in class, but that didn't bother me because my family spoke English all the time, but I did learn some words and was nicknamed Scotty for my efforts. Later on when I was writing an essay I couldn't remember how to spell turnips and I wrote NEEPS instead! Well I got corrected in red ink by Miss Forsyth, bet she had a giggle about it.

During the war schools were allocated a sugar ration so jams of all kinds were made and kept in a cupboard at school and one took a slice of bread from home and one was allowed to spread your piece, trouble was all the good jams were used up first and the last being gooseberry, I still do not care for gooseberries even to this day.

However during winter soup was made in a big washing copper where a fire was lit under it and Mrs. McHardy made broth, pea and tattie soup, which was then carried round in white enamel pails from a tiny kitchen into the school. Little white bowls filled up with the soup of the day and we lined up to collect our own and sat down at our desks to eat thankfully on such cold days. We could add salt and pepper, but one day we got white pepper instead of black and one bright spark announced, "You need lots of it 'cause it's not so strong" well most of us burnt our mouths that day and I think it was our favourite TATTIE soup!!!!

The year before my eleven plus Mr. Duthie moved to a bigger school and the top three secondary classes were bussed to Towie school. However I managed to pass for Alford instead, but that's another story.

**Eileen A. Davies (*nee Simon.*)**

## Dinnet Cat - *Gone up in the world!*

*Home, sweet home!*



*And I am  
the Lord of the Manor!*



## Daphne Laing

Daphne has died, just short of her 90th Birthday. She had suffered ill health for several years and had almost stopped coming to St Thomas's, but in her day, she was one of the real characters of our church.

She had had a hard life in many ways, she brought up her four children in the cottage attached to the Aboyne Children's Home, a few miles out of Aboyne, and without a car, she would trudge into the village regardless, in the early days always with a pram. Later she had her home in Aboyne itself, and started coming regularly to St Thomas's. She had enormous energy, which she channelled in various practical ways, especially keeping the social side lively. At one time she was responsible for fund-raising, and had all sorts of ideas, which she carried out faithfully. No-one who was there would forget her 'teddy-bears picnic'! A tent in the Aboyne Castle grounds was packed, in the pouring rain, with merry-makers, including several children with their teddy-bears. There were even races outside for them at one point.

Daphne had a great sense of humour - if she was laughing, everyone knew it! She was a hard worker, and she could be great fun.

Sheila Maxwell



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## Ian Stewart



Ian Stewart was a keen member of the St Thomas's Augmented choir, he sang tenor with us for many years, right up to earlier this year, in spite of increasing health problems. He was one of the most dependable - and also one of the most fun. I would get the oddest emails when there was any query, full of character. And he was the only one who took the trouble to come and get me to play his tenor part so that he could record it and practice it at home.

He was a wonderfully active, social and friendly person. We will miss him very much in the choir - as will many other people with whom he came into contact, through his own church among other activities.

Thank you Ian for all your generous contribution to our lives.

Sheila Maxwell

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## A Call to Doric Speakers

Lesley Ellis, Secretary of Coull Trust, says that they would be very interested to hear from anyone who might like to help them provide a Club for Doric speakers and those keen to learn. They feel there should be something local which flies a flag for Doric!

Do get in touch with her if you are interested at all. Email [info@futuregroup.org.uk](mailto:info@futuregroup.org.uk)

## Personnel

## Deaths

Anne and John Richardson of St Kentigern's died a few days apart in June.

Daphne Laing, member of St Thomas's, died in July

Ian Stewart, of the Augmented choir, died in June

*Please pray for them and their families.*

## Congratulations

Marie Wilde has celebrated her 90th Birthday

Cycling challenge - Archie and Teddy helped to raise £664 for their school

## Anne and John

We were all saddened to lose Anne and John Richardson in the same week, first John on the 7<sup>th</sup> June, and Anne, six days later, on the 13<sup>th</sup> June

After holidaying in Ballater for years, they moved there from South Shields, where they met as teens at youth group.

Anne was very involved in St Kentigern's as Youth Leader, always keen to work with the children. She was the PVG representative, and often took Morning Service in Vittoria's absence.

Their joint funeral took place on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June, and they were interred together at Tullich Cemetery.

They will be sadly missed.



## The Sponsored Cycling Challenge

for Strathdon School



Archie and Teddy Rider would like to thank all those who sponsored them for their cycle challenge. Twelve pupils from Strathdon School (school roll number of 16), cycled the equivalent of 53.6 miles in 1 hr around the Lonach Field, to raise money for extracurricular school activities. Teddy cycled the most laps (24), followed by Archie (21). The pupils raised a total of £664; an impressive achievement.

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.stthomasaboynce.org>

If you want to get in touch, please email:  
stthomasaboynce@gmail.com or phone  
Tel No 07352 750090

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

Some services are recorded at St Thomas's.

The Youtube Link is:  
[https://www.youtube.com/  
@st.thomaschurchaboyne](https://www.youtube.com/@st.thomaschurchaboyne)



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

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

Colossians Ch 4 v2



Anyone who would like to be prayed for especially, or has a friend who would like this, please get in touch

by phone **07352 750090** or email  
[upperdeesidechurches@gmail.com](mailto:upperdeesidechurches@gmail.com)

## 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 Sabine Muir at Ballater,  
by September 15th

Treasurer  
Secretary  
Lay Representative  
Vestry Members

Sacristan  
Organist  
Chalice Bearers

Marcus Humphrey  
Sabine Muir  
Hilary Mutch  
Sabrina Humphrey  
Margaret Jaffray Ewen  
Sabine Muir  
Susan Smith  
Stuart Wright  
Hilary Mutch  
Stanley Ewen

Roger Searle, Marcus Humphrey, Susan Smith,  
Douglas Mutch, Sabine Muir

Secretary  
Treasurer  
Lay representative  
Vestry Members

Organist and Publicity  
Child Protection Officer  
Sacristans  
Chalice Bearers

Flowers  
People's Warden  
(Maintenance Officer)  
Patron

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

For information, contact Diocesan Office tel 01224 662247

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