

# Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman Parish Magazine Autumn 2017

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Dear friends,

All the activities of life & work have restarted in these past few weeks. Our older boys are back to Aberdeen and Glasgow, school term is well on for Euan, and my weeks have filled with meetings – in Duffus, Spynie & Hopeman, in Dyke & Edinkillie (as Interim Moderator), for Moray Presbytery, and nationally with the Panel on Review & Reform. Lots of interesting stuff, along with some that's just necessary.



For many people life is very busy, between work (paid and unpaid), family, friends, organisations, and other commitments. It is hard to balance time and energy between yourself, others, and obligations. It can be hard to avoid guilt from doing too much or doing too little, particularly in the church. All of this shaped my studies over this year, as I wrote a dissertation on the tension between being called to self-denial and self-care in Christian life.

After 20,000 words, some of my conclusions may seem a bit obvious:

- We are invited to turn to God, who calls us all to participate in communion with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and with other people.
- That communion is a community of mutual love and self-giving, made possible by God's love.
- This means that we are called both to love and to be loved. We are to be served and receive love from God and others, as well as to love and serve God and others.

So whatever you have going on in life, please know that you are loved and you deserve to receive love – from God and from others. Please know that you are also asked to give from what you have received, loving God, and loving your neighbour as you love yourself. And please know that there is no one-size-fits-all for Christians, so you shouldn't judge yourself (or anyone else) by what your life or diary looks like. God loves & calls you as you, wherever and whoever you are!

May we hear God's call, know God's love, and share it with others, in each of our very different lives.

With love & prayers,  
Rev Jenny x



## News from the Session Clerk

Without continuing the theme of my letter to the last magazine, I feel I have to say one thing. **Doesn't time fly when you're having fun?** Well I must really be enjoying myself because it hardly seems any time at all since I sat down to write that letter!



It's been a busy few months & I'm doing my best to settle into this new role. It was lovely seeing so many of you at the gatherings this weekend and I know the suggestions that were planted on the trees will be a great source of help in determining the future for our church buildings. We are blessed to have 3 beautiful & well maintained kirks & the information gleaned will help make them fit for 21st century worship.

Your Kirk Session has, as always, been very busy, working on ideas to make the church more welcoming to everyone. Why don't you consider inviting a friend or neighbour to come to church with you? They will always get a warm welcome, whichever of our church buildings they choose to worship in.

We seemed to have had a prolonged spell of wet weather recently which doesn't affect me as badly as it did the last session clerk! My only concern being how often my washing machine rumbles on washing wet & muddy work clothes & trying to get them dry again!

I notice that the trees & bushes are heavily laden with fruits this year, the rowan trees are magnificently red & the prolific crop of brambles are needing a bit of sun to bring them to their amazing shiny black perfectness. I fear this might be a sign of a long hard winter ahead as nature is preparing to provide for the birds & other wildlife.

When your elder calls with your magazine, take time to chat to them. If you have anything worrying you or you need any help, please tell them. They will do their very best to try & find an answer for you & if they can't, then they will pass it on to Jenny or me & we will do whatever we can to help. Anything that is shared will be held in the utmost confidence.

In worship over the last few weeks we have heard of the importance of love. Can I take this opportunity to remind you all, no matter how hard it might seem, love your enemies as well as your friends.

Shona Rowand  
Session Clerk

## Property Matters

As we continue conversations about how to make our buildings the best resource for mission for the next 10 years and more, there are 2 significant developments to share.

Firstly, over a third of the congregation were able to attend our gatherings in mid-September, where sketches, a bingo quiz and presentation helped us reflect on our mission as part of God's church. The ideas that have come from Board and Session were shared, and feedback received from all those who were able to attend.

Secondly, the Congregational Board has instructed an architect to come and conduct a mini feasibility study of our three church buildings. The architect, who has a wide range of experience with churches across Scotland, will visit our buildings, meet some officebearers, listen to our suggestions and requirements, then put together a report about each building. The report will hopefully include some estimates of cost and timescales, images for suggestions, examples of possibilities, and an overall strategy.

For all the buildings, we need an assessment of the state of the buildings as structurally sound and fit for 21<sup>st</sup> century purposes. This begins with wiring, plumbing, heating, health & safety, energy efficiency, accessibility, kitchens and toilets all meeting current standards.

In addition, the suggestions and feedback we are offering from the congregation are:

### Duffus Church

- accessible toilet options – seen as a priority by many.
- kitchen modernisation – very popular.
- seating more comfortable – some are in favour of removing at least some pews.
- children's area enlarged by removing pews at side/rear of church to make more room.
- outside lighting to highlight building/banner. Also better outside lighting for users.
- lighting rose window from inside.
- solar panels on roof.
- brightening the kirk hall, possibly by reclaiming the glass partition to the church.

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### Hopeman Church

- sound system modernised – some also suggesting multimedia options and internet access.
- heating able to bring the sanctuary to a comfortable temperature in the winter.
- entrance needs brightened. Glass panels in doors to stairs and/or sanctuary mostly seen positively, along with idea of a gathering space.
- children's area – can this be created into a separate glass-walled room, which could be a meeting room as well?
- consideration of seating and space, and whether pews are best solution for flexibility and comfort. Opinion from the gatherings was divided 50:50 about removing pews.
- solar panels on roof.
- various other ideas have been suggested for the hall, especially storage & a new carpet.
- some other ideas for dividing the sanctuary space, either upstairs/downstairs, or under the balconies, have come from members.
- comments about parking at Hopeman have been heard.

### Spynie Church

- removal of platform/step to improve accessibility and safety
- pews – access issues, suggestion of removing 1 or 2 pews opposite east door, to create access space and space for chairs. Comfort – need to take a closer look at which boxes or pews might accommodate more comfortable seating. Members acknowledged comfort and access issues, while wanting to retain character of the kirk.
- path from rear door (emergency exit) to paved area at front, needs improved for wheelchairs.
- a suggestion to develop Spynie into a retreat centre was received very positively.
- Spynie has many advantages, e.g. car parking, and could be used more, if we can develop ideas. e.g. weddings, family days, rambles, lectures.

We will endeavour to keep everyone as up to date as possible. The architect's report will hopefully help us to have a more informed discussion about our buildings, and what we might need to do and spend to make them a resource for God's mission in Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman. If you have any further suggestions or comments, or any concerns, please get in touch with me.

### Rev Jenny

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## Guild News

The Session held its first meeting on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in Duffus Church Hall. Kathie welcomed those present. Kathie spoke of attending a video link showing the Guild Annual Meeting in Dundee; this event took place in Bellie Church Hall in Focabbers. Miss Flora Christie and Miss Betty Ingram accompanied Kathie to this event.

The next meeting will be held in Hopeman Church Hall on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.15. Mrs Susan Gilliland will talk about the projects, giving an update on money raised so far.

On 7<sup>th</sup> November the meeting will take place in Duffus Church Hall. Mrs Janet Benson will lead a discussion on how easy it is to love lovely people, but how do we cope with the other side of loving those whom we consider unsavoury.

On 5<sup>th</sup> December we will be thinking of a Christmas theme, I am in the process of arranging this.

All of these meetings are open to men and women within the congregation.

Kathie Young  
(Contact person)

## Yom Kippur

Yom Kippur falls on the 30<sup>th</sup> September this year, although technically speaking it starts at sunset on the 29<sup>th</sup>. This year Yom Kippur will fall on Saturday i.e. the Sabbath. Yom Kippur is often referred to as the Sabbath of Sabbaths.

Yom Kippur is translated into English as “**The Day of Atonement**”. This is the most holy day of the Jewish year, and is a day of fasting and repentance before God. It occurs 10 days after the Jewish New Year or Rosh Hashanah (20<sup>th</sup> Sept 2017). In the Jewish tradition these 10 days are a time for reflection on the old year and our standing before God, so that on Yom Kippur we can repent.

Before the destruction of the temple in AD70, two goats would be brought to the temple. The sins of the people and the sins of the Nation were laid on these two goats. One was sacrificed, symbolising the spilling of blood to atone for sin. The other goat was set free into the desert as a *‘scapegoat’* to carry our sins in our place. These goats were to atone for the sins of both individuals and of the nation Israel.

Today most Jews including the more secular, will attend the synagogue for Yom Kippur services, many will also fast and generally refrain from the pleasures of life, including sport, in an attitude of reflection and repentance. Many Orthodox Jews will include a sacrifice, but today they will be sacrificing a chicken as an atonement for their sins on Yom Kippur.

For Christians the Jewish traditions tell us of the Jesus who became both the scapegoat and the goat whose blood was spilt to atone for sin. Needless to say Christ’s sacrifice was both for all who accept his sacrifice, and as atonement for their sin. As Christians however, we seem to have forgotten the need to spend time in reflection of both our personal failings, as well as the failings of our ‘nation’. Maybe this year we can reflect on both our ‘nation’s’ failings as well as our own on the 30<sup>th</sup> Sept. (If you read this after 30<sup>th</sup> Sept it is not too late to reflect.)

I suggest that we spend a little time in prayer for our ‘nation’ each Yom Kippur, asking for forgiveness and mercy for our Nation.

### Suggested prayer:

On this Day of Atonement, we ask for forgiveness of our personal sins,  
On this Day of Atonement we ask for forgiveness of our communities’ sins,  
On this Day of Atonement we ask for forgiveness of our nation’s sins.  
Lord have mercy on us, our communities and our nation, in spite of having turned our backs on you and your ways. Help us to return to you,  
Maranatha - come Lord Jesus. Amen.

Francis Mitchell



## Changing World, Changing Church?

The world is changing. Here in Moray there are a few generations of people disconnected from the church. There is an invisible church of Christians who choose not to engage in the institutional church. There are many people who are not reached by the church as it is now.

### **How are we to be church with and for people in a changing world?**

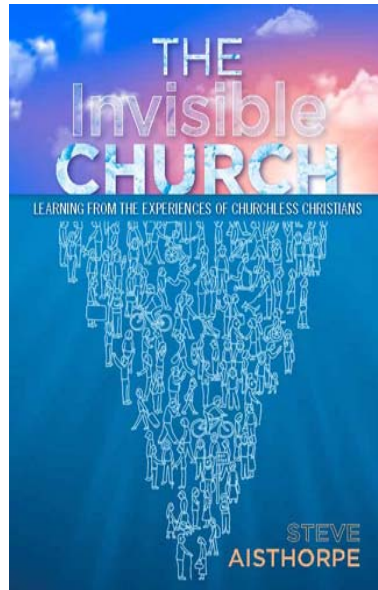
To help us explore this question, Moray Presbytery is hosting a day conference on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October, in the Williamson Hall, Duff Avenue, Elgin, 10am-3pm.

Our guest speakers are:

- Steve Aisthorpe, a Mission & Discipleship Worker in the Church of Scotland, who wrote the book "The Invisible Church."
- Liz Crumlish, Path of Renewal Co-ordinator for the Church of Scotland, who helps congregations across Scotland explore ways of becoming missional churches.

For £5, which includes a soup & bread lunch, we all get the chance to listen and learn alongside people from other congregations and denominations. We share the questions and issues; we can explore new challenges and changes together.

**If you are interested, please book through Rev Jenny.**



## MESSY CHURCH REPORT



### SEPTEMBER MESSY CHURCH

The new season of Messy Church got off to a good start on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at Duffus. One or two of our regular families were missing, possibly due to there being another event in the village that afternoon, but we also had some new faces and I think we can safely say everyone enjoyed their afternoon.

Our themes this time all concern things that Jesus did, and are about meeting Jesus and walking with him. The first one was about him calling his disciples so we had two activities involving names. Heather and Francis had prepared a sort of treasure hunt to find all twelve disciples and with Aileen they made and decorated name plates with their own names. As the first four disciples were fishermen the other activities involved nets and fishing. Jenny had pictures of children and families doing different things to cut out, write a little prayer and clip on to a fishing net she'd set up with little lights. Susan had been beachcombing for shells, seaweed etc. so they could fish around in two big buckets of water and see what they could find, and also use their imaginations to make little creatures peeping out of shells. As Jesus told the first disciples he would teach them to catch people, Fay had prepared outlines of people and put metal clips on them so the children could fish for them using hooks or magnets. They could then colour them and add faces and hair. She also had sparkly awards for them to fish for, so a kind of fishing for compliments. The end results of these activities were very imaginative and colourful.

As it was a beautiful day Carmen was able to take them outside to play a game and run about before coming in to sit down for the celebration with Jenny telling the story and leading the prayer, and Chris and Michael providing the music for us to sing a couple of songs.

By then we were being enticed by the delicious smells wafting out of the kitchen and it was time to sit down and enjoy a supper of shepherd's pie, salad and strawberry tarts. A big thank you to Pat for making the pie and to Kathie and Sheila for helping in the kitchen, and to Heather, Francis, Jenna, Susan, Fay Aileen and Jenny for giving their time and considerable talents to dream up and prepare these activities for the children. Thanks also to Christine for doing the publicity and being there to welcome families as they arrived. And finally, of course, thank you to the parents who brought their children and joined in everything with them. Please keep coming! New families and new volunteers welcome.

**The next date for your diary is Sunday November 5 in Hopeman Memorial Hall and we hope to see you all then.**

## Pictures from Messy Church



## Sharing Faith

When it comes to sharing faith, lots of Christians' first thought is of a bold preacher, confidently proclaiming carefully crafted words that have taken a lifetime of learning to prepare. It doesn't always have to be like that.

"Sharing Faith" is a new four-week course designed for groups in churches to explore how we can each convey, to those closest to us, the difference that following Jesus makes in our lives.

Through the 4 sessions – with a combination of Bible study, group discussions, activities, and prayer – practical things are explored to help share our faith better.

If this sounds useful, then why not come along. We are going to running **"Sharing Faith" on 4 Monday mornings in November: Mondays 6<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November, in Hopeman Kirk Hall, 10.30am-12noon** – with a cup of tea and time to chat built in.

If you're interested, but can't manage those days/times, let Rev Jenny know, and we can run the course another time.

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## CAP MONEY COURSE

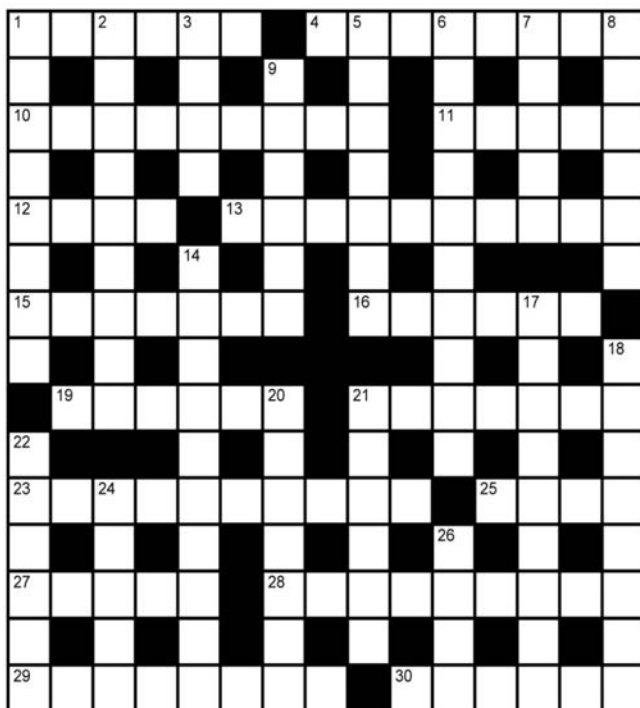
**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October.**

The CAP money course will help us all to manage our money well. It is for everyone, whether you have a large income, have a small budget to work with or are on a pension. Do come and give it a go as it is **FREE** to attend. Come along on the above dates. It will start at 7.30pm in Hopeman Church Hall.

# BIBLE CROSSWORD I

## Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)  
 4 Seemed (8)  
 10 New Testament book (9)  
 11 Unit of length (5)  
 12 '...it is a \_\_\_\_ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)  
 13 Contemplation (10)  
 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)  
 16 A son of King David (6)  
 19 Concurred (6)  
 21 Light sources (7)  
 23 Propitiations (10)  
 25 A false god (4)  
 27 Gather (5)  
 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)  
 29 Instructors (8)  
 30 Hastily (6)
- Down**
- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)  
 2 Inspiring (9)  
 3 Compass point (4)  
 5 Intense emotion (7)



by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)  
 7 Jewish leader (5)  
 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but \_\_\_\_\_ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)  
 9 Bread makers (6)  
 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)  
 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)  
 18 Stringed instrument (8)  
 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)  
 21 Tiny amount (6)  
 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)  
 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)  
 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

## Highlands and Moray Eco Gathering

There was a meeting or gathering of those from the local area who are interested in Eco-congregations on 10th June, and took place at the Williamson Hall Elgin. Three members of our congregation were in attendance, including Jenny who led the worship. The meeting was led by David Bethune from Eco-congregation Scotland.

After starting with worship to help us focus on God's creation, David gave an excellent presentation on why we need to be especially aware of present day threats to God's creation; looking at the scientific arguments and evidence of what is generally termed 'global warming', but what David described as being more appropriately called 'global overheating' due to its potential to destroy various communities, throughout the world - primarily in the low lying 'third world'. For example low lying coastal lands such as Bangladesh, as well as island nations such as the Maldives, and Kiribati.

Global overheating causing sea levels to rise, due to melting ice (in particular Antarctic and Greenland ice, as it's not floating on the sea), also as water warms it expands. It also causes more energetic weather systems, such as hurricanes and typhoons (notable examples this year all round the world, from China and India to Texas!). Shifting patterns or rain and drought, giving rise to less predictable climates. This would mean that wet and dry seasons will be less predictable, making it more difficult to know when to sow seeds. For the UK this may not seem too serious but for many parts of the world it is essential to know, otherwise the crops will either rot or wither, leading to widespread famines.

To try and slow down global overheating, we can cut our carbon emission, that is carbon-dioxide in the atmosphere, which traps more light and thereby raises global temperatures. This has given rise to the concept of the 'Carbon footprint'. The 'Carbon footprint' in a relatively crude method of measuring our contribution to global overheating. Nearly everything we do uses up resources, which in turn require energy to both produce and deliver to us. This can be calculated in terms of carbon dioxide produced in order to get the energy required, or transport goods and will also need to include our own transport needs.

Our modern lifestyles are energy and resource hungry, and as such in order to show gratitude and respect for Gods gifts to us of creation i.e. the environment, we can start to make amends. This can be done in four ways:

- 1) Reduce our 'carbon footprint' (short term)
- 2) Invest in ways to reduce our 'carbon footprint' (long term)
- 3) Pressure - encouraging others to respect Gods creation, and reduce their 'carbon footprint'.
- 4) Cooperate with others to achieve what is difficult, or less effective when done on our own!

The meeting concluded with a request for volunteers to form an eco-group for Moray.

Francis Mitchell



## Social Committee Events

We held a very successful Church Picnic on Sunday 25th June after the Children's service in Hopeman Kirk. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity of bringing and sharing food together and participating in games for both Old & Young!

A sociable Sponsored Walk is being held on Sunday 1st October at 2:00pm - from Hopeman Kirk to the Bothy in Burghead for coffee, teas, ice cream etc. and back along the line (no time limit & there will be lifts available for those who don't want to walk back!) All ages & dogs most welcome.

On Saturday the 4th November we will be holding a Coffee Morning with Bottle Stall in Spynie Hall 10am - 12 noon

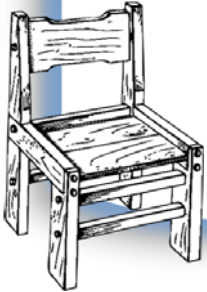


**Hopeman Guiding** are still collecting milk bottle tops for Logan's fund, we would like to thank everyone for the tops they have already collected and to keep them coming.  
**Contact Janice Craib.**



## Church Hall Lets

If you'd like to hire our Kirk Hall at Duffus or Hopeman for a morning, afternoon, or evening, the price is £5.00 (juniors) & £15.00 (adults) per session, including the use of a basic kitchen and toilet facilities.  
For more information please contact  
Mrs J Craib 830139



# Hopeman Kirk



Hopeman Kirk flower, coffee & cleaning rotas need volunteers – can you help?  
Please contact: Janice on 830139

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The church very kindly donated £100 towards my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh experience. To get my award I needed to complete 4 elements; 3 months of netball, learning a new skill – British Sign Language, and 6 months of volunteering with Hopeman Rainbows. Finally, I needed to do 2 expeditions with my group. So far we have done a walk from Lossie woods to Spey Bay where we camped. The next day we walked to Baxters where we finished our expedition. It was a great experience and I am looking forward to completing our qualifying walk at the end of September.



With the money you gave me, I bought a rucksack, walking boots, sleeping bag and safety equipment. I would like to thank you all for your kind donation which has enabled me to take part in this award.

**Beth MacKay**

### You are invited to communion

As a congregation, we celebrate communion on the first Sunday of every month, as we gather together in one place.

There is a great richness of meaning and symbolism in the sacrament of communion. We share the Lord's Supper together, remembering Jesus' last supper with his friends, and also looking forward to the great feast God invites all people to. It is the family meal of the church family. We offer thanksgiving (Eucharist) for God's goodness, and we are fed and nourished for the journey ahead.

A sacrament is a visible sign – in this case, visible, edible, taste-able and touchable – of God's invisible grace. God loves us first and always, and the sacraments enable us to know that through our senses, as well as our minds. Jesus invites us to come, take, eat – we are all invited. You are invited.

Please join us if you can. And if you are unable to join us, please speak to your elder about home communion, sharing with Rev Jenny and your elder, when opportunities arise.

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### Wedding

Kim Chiasson and Gary Dewhurst, at Duffus Kirk 12<sup>th</sup> July 2017

### Baptisms

Morgan Conti and Olivia Conti, at Spynie Kirk 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017

### In Memoriam

Alfred Law	of Bielside, Aberdeen – funeral 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Margaret Bailey	of Gordon St, New Elgin – 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2017
Bob Stuart	of Heldon Place, Elgin – 1 <sup>st</sup> August 2017
Alison Wood	formerly of East Road, Hopeman – 28 <sup>th</sup> August 2017
Sandy Walker	of Portiragnes, France – 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2017

*We remember them with love,  
give thanks for their lives,  
entrust them to God's loving arms,  
and hold their families and friends  
in our thoughts and prayers.*

### FAIR-TRADE CHURCH

*What does the Lord require of us: to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God' Micah 6:8*



**Traidcraft Stall available in Hopeman Church Hall after the Harvest Service on Sunday 1st October when there will be a selection of tea, coffee, chocolate, cards and other items and a chance to see the Traidcraft catalogue.**

Duffus, Spynie, and Hopeman Church has a history of supporting Fairtrade.

Fairtrade **is** making a real difference to the lives of more than 1.65 million farmers and workers in 74 developing countries.

However every now and then it is good to be reminded about Fair-trade especially in the current state of the world where there are so many needs.

We can still make a commitment to Fair-trade in small ways in our daily shopping by regularly buying fairly traded products, something we can all do and that makes a real difference to the lives of poorer farmers in the third world. Just like we can help our own Farmers in Scotland by choosing local produce over ones that have travelled many miles, leaving a greater carbon footprint.

Last week shopping for some Apples I picked up a bag only to find they were all the way from New Zealand, a quick search and I managed to find similar apples from the UK. Where things are grown locally we can support local producers but we can also support the poorest countries that provide our tea, coffee, sugar, bananas and many other items by choosing fairly traded items over those imported by large commercial companies.

Now **Brexit** adds another concern.

EU measures currently mean products the UK imports from the poorest countries are exempt from charges or taxes. But if equivalent rules aren't put in place by our government, 116 countries stand to lose out. This would seriously harm the incomes of the many people that produce some of the UK's favourite products, be it coffee, sugar or bananas.

As a Church we can continue to support Fair-trade and sign up to being a Fair-trade Church. To do that the Church is asked to meet three goals

- 1. Use fairly traded tea and coffee after services and in all meetings for which we have responsibility.**
- 2. Move forward on using other fair trade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit.**
- 3. Promote Fair-trade during Fair-trade Fortnight and during the year through events, worship and other activities whenever possible.**

I have been involved in running a Traidcraft fair trade stall for many years and here too people have supported this. I am very happy to run the occasional Fair-trade event and also to order fairly traded goods from Traidcraft to supply the Church kitchens. If anyone is interested in ordering items or in seeing the catalogues see me at Church or give me a call.

**Heather Mitchell (830713).**

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*Poem submitted to the magazine by Bert Davidson*

### **Hymn of the Moray Firth Fishermen**

Now the red rose of the sunset is fading,  
 Swift on the waters its glory must wane:  
 Soon must the shades of the twilight, descending,  
 Herald the gathering darkness again:  
 Therefore on Thee, in the peril of nightfall,  
 Call we for courage, secure in Thy might:  
 Thou, the unslumbering, shine on our vigil,  
 Lead us to haven, O Lord of the light.

Quiet on the coast of the Moray Firth lying,  
 Every grey hamlet, and village and town;  
 Soon on our homes, from the dusk and the silence,  
 Tranquil, untroubled, the stars shall look down:  
 O, may the hearts of the our nearest and dearest  
 Rest, in Thy fatherhood find evermore  
 So let the grace of Thy pity encompass  
 Toilers at sea, and their loved ones on shore.

Swift, as a day to the sunset is waning  
 Youth in its glory and strength in its prime;  
 Soon shall the mists of life's twilight descending,  
 Gather to darkness the shadows of Time:  
 Wherefore on Thee, the unslumbering, changeless,  
 Stay we our hope, the last vigil to keep,  
 Be to us, in that lone peril of nightfall,



Haven and homecoming, Lord of the Deep. M.W.S.

- Thur 14<sup>th</sup>** Sitting down service, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2 for 2.20pm
  - Fri 15<sup>th</sup>** Carol service, led by Men's Group, Duffus Kirk 7pm with collection for Mission Aviation Fellowship
  - Sun 17<sup>th</sup>** Nativity service, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am
  - Thur 21<sup>st</sup>** Blue Christmas service, Hopeman Kirk 7.30pm
  - Sun 24<sup>th</sup>** All-age service, Duffus Kirk 10.30am  
 Christingle service, Duffus Kirk 6pm  
 Watchnight service, Hopeman Kirk 11pm carols, for 1.30pm
  - Mon 25<sup>th</sup>** Christmas morning service, Spynie Kirk 10.30am
  - Sun 31<sup>st</sup>** All-age service, Spynie Kirk 10.30am
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*Submitted by Bert Davidson*

### **Hopeman Sunsets**

There are no sunsets like the autumn sunsets seen from Hopeman or Lossiemouth. Sun and cloud and moisture-laden air, mountain and sea, weave and clothe themselves as the day dies in the most gorgeous of raiment. There is no stint, no restraint in colour. Blue and purple, orange and green, red and black, spread up from the horizon, gleam and gloom on the mountains, and are reflected on the sea; and the strong, piercing golden beams of the sun shoot upwards and downwards through all, the sign of His imperial might and majesty.

**J B Pratt**

## November 2017

- Thur 2<sup>nd</sup>** Sitting down service, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2 for 2.20pm
- Sat 4<sup>th</sup>** Coffee morning, Spynie Hall 10am-12noon
- Sun 5<sup>th</sup>** All-age communion service, Spynie Kirk 10.30am  
(also food collection for Moray Food Bank)
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup>** Kirk Session, Duffus Kirk Hall 7pm
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup>** The Guild, Duffus Kirk Hall 2.15pm
- Sat 11<sup>th</sup>** Act of Remembrance, Spynie Hall 10.45am
- Sun 12<sup>th</sup>** Remembrance Service, Hopeman Memorial Hall 10am  
Act of Remembrance, Duffus War Memorial 10.45am  
Remembrance Service, Duffus Kirk 11.30am
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup>** Men's Group, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm  
*Speaker: Commanding Officer, RAF Lossiemouth*
- Thur 16<sup>th</sup>** Sitting down service, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2 for 2.20pm
- Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** Family Service & Sunday School, Hopeman Kirk 10am  
Family Service, Spynie Kirk 11.30am
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup>** Congregational Board, Duffus Kirk Hall 6.45/7.30pm
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup>** Prayers for peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Spynie Kirk 4pm
- Sun 26<sup>th</sup>** Family Service & Sunday School, Hopeman Kirk 10am  
Family Service, Duffus Kirk 11.30am
- Thur 30<sup>th</sup>** Spynie soup & sweet lunch, Spynie Hall 12noon-2pm  
Sitting down service, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2 for 2.20pm

## December 2017

- Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>** All-age communion service, Duffus Kirk 10.30am  
(also food collection for Moray Food Bank)
- Tue 5<sup>th</sup>** The Guild, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2.15pm

Family Service & Sunday School, Hopeman Kirk 10am  
Family Service, Spynie Kirk 11.30am

## Calendar

## October 2017

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** All-age Harvest Thanksgiving communion service, Hopeman Kirk 10.30am  
(also Traidcraft stall & food collection for Moray Food Bank)
- Sponsored walk, Hopeman to Burghead "Bothy" & back. Leave Hopeman Kirk 2pm. In aid of church funds.
- Tue 3<sup>rd</sup>** The Guild, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2.15pm  
Moray Presbytery open meeting on "What is mission?"  
*Speaker: Tony Stephen, Banchory West Church*  
at St. Andrew's Lhanbryd Church hall, 7pm.
- Thur 5<sup>th</sup>** Sitting down service, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2 for 2.20pm
- Sun 8<sup>th</sup>** Family Service, Hopeman Kirk 10am  
Family Service, Duffus Kirk 11.30am
- Sun 15<sup>th</sup>** Family Service, Hopeman Kirk 10am  
Family Service, Spynie Kirk 11.30am
- Wed 18<sup>th</sup>** Men's group open meeting, Hopeman Kirk Hall 7.30pm  
*Speaker: David Adams, on his Pluscarden pilgrimage*
- Thur 19<sup>th</sup>** Sitting down service, Hopeman Kirk Hall 2 for 2.20pm
- Sat 21<sup>st</sup>** *Changing World, Changing Church?* day conference  
Williamson Hall, Elgin 10am-3pm
- Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>** Family Service, Hopeman Kirk 10am  
Family Service, Duffus Kirk 11.30am
- Tue 24<sup>th</sup>** Prayers for peace in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Spynie Kirk 4pm
- Thur 26<sup>th</sup>** Spynie soup & sweet lunch, Spynie Hall 12noon-2pm
- Sun 29<sup>th</sup>** Family Service & Sunday School, Hopeman Kirk 10am  
Family Service, Spynie Kirk 11.30am

