

MORAY PRESBYTERY NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2017

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, October 21, in the Williamson Hall, Duff

Avenue, Elgin, 10am-3pm.

The guest speakers are: Steve Aisthorpe, a Mission and Discipleship worker in the Church of Scotland, and is author of the book "The Invisible Church," and 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 and 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 the Rev Jenny Adams jadams@churchofscotland.org.uk



MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR



Mrs Janet Whyte, Presbytery elder for Bellie and Speymouth, who was installed as Moderator of the Presbytery at its September meeting.

Singing for joy

By JANET WHYTE

SOME TIME ago, a friend gave me a little book called 'Joy in the Morning'.

It came in very useful last year when the Guild theme was 'Go in Joy', but these past few weeks when I have wakened to find yet another grey, wet day ahead, I find it hard to see Joy in the morning! But I only have to turn on the television or the radio to see that people in the Caribbean, Central America, India and Africa are being devastated by hurricanes, earthquake and drought.

Then I realise that I have nothing to complain about.

The old chorus comes to mind 'Count your blessings name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done'.

Psalm 63 v 7 says: 'In the shadow of Your wings I sing for joy'.

Whatever our circumstances in life, through good times and bad, we can find joy by being close to God.

Continue to be prayerful for the people in the world who are suffering and pray that they too may live in the shadow of His wings.



Come and see that it is good!

AN INVITATION is being issued by Buckie South and West Church Guild members for folks to join them at their open afternoon.

The event, which is being held on Monday, October 9, at 2pm, will have the theme 'Grow in Love', and the guest speaker will be the Rev Alastair Gray, minister of Keith: North, Newmill, Boharm and Rothiemay churches.

Mr Gray is also Presbytery Clerk.

A number of youngsters will also be taking part in the afternoon's proceedings.

Harvest

AT THE church's harvest thanksgiving, which will be a united service with Enzie, all gifts given with loving hearts will be donated to the Moray Food Bank.

The service takes place on Sunday, October 8.



**BUCKIE SOUTH
and WEST CHURCH**

**COFFEE
MORNING**

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 11**

10am-12 noon
in the
CHURCH HALL

Come awa in and
enjoy a cuppie and
a fine piece - all
welcome



Elgin High looks at talents and dedication

by HAZEL DICKSON

AS PART of Elgin High's season of stewardship 2017, we decided to concentrate on 'talents'.

We all have talents, though many of us probably do not realise this. Stewardship is keen to identify those gifts, our skills and strengths and to offer these for the work of the Church.

We encouraged members of the congregation to look at their talents, or ideas which can be put to use for the good of the Church as it serves our community.

Over the month, we were able to draw on our numerous gifts; along with weekly worship and our many clubs and groups, some other events took place during stewardship – Doors Open Day, prayer breakfast, etc.

The campaign concluded with our Boys' Brigade dedication service.

An important part of the life of any Boys' Brigade Company, and of the church of which it is a part, is the service of dedication.

This is a time when the company and church unite in reminding each other of their objectives and obligations.

It is important that this is seen not just as a 'BB' occasion, but as one in which the Brigade and any other youth organisations – whether uniformed or not – within the ministry of the local church might be seen as visible strands of the children's and young people's work of that church.

This was followed by some light refreshments after the service.

Thinking about a Career?

"To learn, then work well
and hard,
is worthy of praise and reward.
But to love God and
serve Him,
is the true career path of life".



COMMUNITY
SOUP & SWEET
LUNCH

£3

LAST THURSDAY
OF EVERY MONTH
SPYNIE HALL
12noon-2pm

EVERYBODY WELCOME



News from Dyke and Edinkillie

HAVING been in a linkage since 1979, the congregations of Dyke and Edinkillie have voted to come together in a union.

This will come into effect on January 1, 2018.

The congregation of Dyke and Edinkillie will continue to worship in both their places of worship, gathering all together on the first Sunday of the month in alternate buildings.

This is a new stage in their journey together, sharing resources even more closely, and prayers and support would be greatly appreciated for the new union, and the ongoing ministerial vacancy.



At a recent service in Elgin High Church, three elders were presented with their long service certificates by the minister, the Rev Stuart Duff. They have each served 30 years as ruling elders in the congregation. Pictured after the presentation (from left) Ed Stuart, Rev Stuart Duff, Margaret Cameron and Charles Stewart.

BUCKIE: SOUTH and WEST CHURCH

A warm welcome awaits you at our



Fashion Show

in aid of church funds

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 14**

*at 7pm
in the*

**CHURCH
HALL**

Tickets: £5 and £3 concession



70-years-old and still going strong

2017 MARKS a significant milestone in the life of the 1st Buckie BB Company.

Formed in 1947 it is preparing to celebrate its 70th anniversary.

Buckie South and West Church will be packed on Sunday, October 29, at 11.30am for the Company's enrolment service, and from November 3-5 there will be a display of memorabilia in the church hall.

The company, one of the largest in the UK, if not the largest, has a strength of around 220, which includes officers, helpers and boys.

The Anchor Boys meet on a Monday, the Junior and Company Sections on a Friday.

The company is also proud of its Bible class, when more than 80 boys in the Company Section attend every Sunday morning

Bible classes are supported by company staff.

The company is part of the Banffshire Battalion and participates fully in all battalion events - swimming gala, top of the form, cross country, five-a-side football, badminton and the annual Battalion parade.

Another source of great pride is the bugle band and gymnastic team.

The band is over 30 strong and has recently been sponsored for new instruments, bugles and drums.



The gymnastic team practice every week throughout the winter months for their item at the annual display in March.

The aim of the Boys' Brigade is the advancement of Christ's Kingdom among boys and the promotion of habits of obedience, reverence, discipline, self-respect and all that tends towards a true Christian manliness



Weekend of Invitation

NOWADAYS IT takes a brave person to walk into a church building on their own or start a God conversation with a Christian. This is why building a culture of invitation, alongside a culture of welcome and transformation is essential.

Andrew was one of the first two disciples that Jesus called. The first thing he did was to invite his brother Simon. That invitation alone has impacted the world. Jesus is still inviting and calling people today.

Join us for the National Weekend of Invitation Roadshow with Michael Harvey, "Back to Church Sunday, Weekend of Invitation". Between the 23rd – 26th October, 2017, we will be visiting Dumfries,

Motherwell, Glasgow, Stirling, Perth, Fort William, Inverness, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Lauder.

This is a free event and registration is now open on our Resourcing Mission website - www.resourcingmission.org.uk/weekend-invitation-roadshows-23-26-October

To listen to the sessions from our Culture of Invitation event at Hampden Park in March, please follow this link - www.Resourcingmission.org.uk/shop/creating-culture-invitation.

Our guest speaker, Michael Harvey, shared his insight on how we can develop this culture within our church, as well as taking a look at some of the reasons as to why we find it hard inviting people to 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. Duffus, Spynie and Hopeman church are going to running "Sharing Faith" on four Monday mornings in November – 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th – 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 Jenny Adams know – or go to www.resourcingmission.org.uk/mission/sharing-faith for more information and downloadable resources to run the course yourself.

It would be good to make this available at different times/places across Moray.



GOOD LIFE, Good Death, Good Grief is organising "To Absent Friends", a festival of storytelling and remembrance from 1st-7th November.

The festival aims to give people across Scotland the opportunity to remember loved ones who have died, through stories, celebrations and acts of remembrance.

Past festivals have included poetry and storytelling evenings, photography exhibitions, cafes of reminiscence, scrapbooking workshops, private acts of remembrance, and church services. Spynie Church will be open on the morning of Saturday, 4th November – alongside a previously arranged coffee morning in Spynie Hall – to allow people a quiet space to remember loved ones, and hang names and prayers on a tree.

It doesn't have to be complicated – but it can be a huge help to people to enable conversations about dying and loss, so it's worth considering what your congregation might be able to do. See www.toabsentfriends.org.uk for more ideas.

When the time comes for you to die, you need not be afraid, because death cannot separate you from God's love.
Charles H. Spurgeon

Call to prayer

SALLY BONNAR

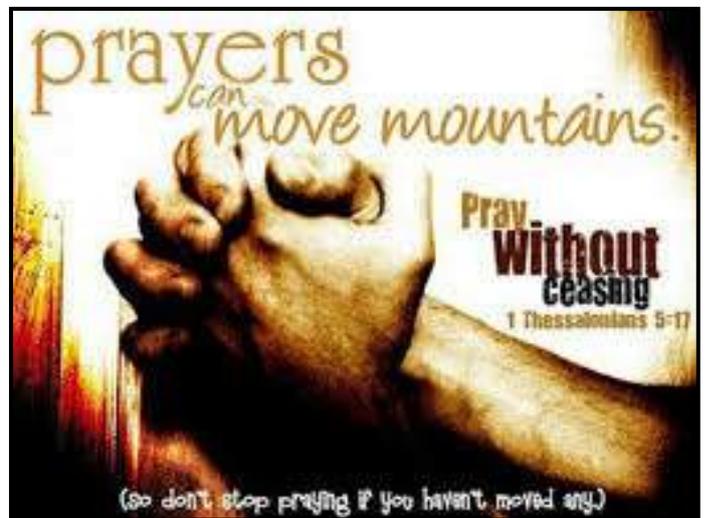
(Convener of the Council of Assembly)

TOGETHER We Pray is a national prayer initiative, running from September 2017 to May 2018, calling the Church to come together in prayer.

This year, the General Assembly asked the Church to focus on praying for God to renew us and particularly to pray as we think about priorities for the future.

The call to prayer grew out of last year's *On the Road* initiative when meetings were held around the country to listen to the hopes and concerns of church members and to explore the challenges of ministry and discipleship in the 21st century.

Throughout the year, we will support your efforts through preparing prayer resources (that will be available online over the course of the initiative) and highlighting opportunities to pray for the future work of the Church. In particular, there will be a **National Day of Prayer on November 25** in which we hope you will want to be involved.



We encourage you to meet on this day in a small group, as a congregation or even as a Presbytery.

Alongside the National Day of Prayer, look out for the brand new *How we Pray* series, *On the Road* events, the Prayer Diary, Advent and more throughout the year.

Find out more at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/togetherwepray



Sweet delights at BB dedication

Following their service of dedication in Elgin High Church, the boys of the 4th Elgin Company Boys' Brigade helped serve members of the congregation with a buffet lunch. The well attended service was conducted by Paula Baker, the church's pastoral assistant. With a cornucopia of 'goodies' laid out before them, our picture shows Elgin High member Elsie Pocket assisting a senior boy as they wait to serve the very appreciative diners.