

connections



November

the magazine of
Stonehaven Carronside
Church of Scotland

Stonehaven Carronside Church of Scotland

*Scottish Charity Number SC013165
www.carronsidechurch.net*

CONNECT WITH CONNECTIONS

FROM THE EDITORIAL GROUP We hope you enjoy this month's magazine. As always, we are grateful for all the reports from our contributors and also for the support of so many volunteers who deliver the magazine to your home each month. Without them, there would be no magazine.

If you would like to send us an article to include or some family news such as a special wedding anniversary, please email to the address at the end of this editorial and we will include it. If you would like your email address added to our church members group which is used to send out news between magazines, please let us know.

The next magazine is our two-month edition covering December and January. The deadline for copy to jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com is 6pm on Thursday 16th November 2022.

STOP PRESS

This information came in just as we were about to print and we thought it just had to be included in this month's magazine!

STONEHAVEN WINS BEAUTIFUL SCOTLAND AWARDS

The Stonehaven Horizon Project entered the 'Keep Scotland Beautiful' competition again this year, striving for the elusive Gold Medal against cities, towns large and small, coastal towns, villages and communities. They rallied all sections of the community and Council, involving the Lions, the Rotary, R W Thomson Fellowship, Burns Fatherland Club, Fireball Swingers, Deeside Timberframes, Men's Shed, Open Air Pool, RNLi, Paws on Plastic and many individuals such as Mr Carr's Garden at the Backies and the Stonehaven Banksie with his metal sculptures along the Boardwalk.

Horizon played a major part throughout the town, with hanging baskets and planters in the town centre and the harbour and gardens such as the new Community Garden in the Square, at the Burns Memorial Garden, the Orchard at the allotments, the wee gardens at the end of the Shorehead and at the David Street corner and the many trees and shrubs planted in Mineralwell Park and Farrochie Park by the Council.

All these efforts have won us 3 awards!

A Gold medal for all the horticultural, environmental and community efforts throughout the town, the Coastal Towns category against many coastal towns in Scotland and finally, The Year of Stories discretionary award for the story of John Duncan, a Stonehaven weaver who was a keen amateur botanist, collecting many plants throughout Scotland, gifting them to the Aberdeen University. This was told by Alistair Lawrie, one of the Mearns Writers, in the Doric!

Our thanks to everyone who helped and participated in a very successful year.

Allan Cairnduff

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

Rev Sarah Smith writes:

I feel like it has been so long since I have written a letter for the Connections magazine. So much has happened and I have been to the States and back to surprise my older brother at his wedding.

It was my first time going back to the States since moving to Scotland in the beginning on Scotland 2020. It was something that I have been planning on doing since the Spring time but I was able to surprise my brother for his wedding, which was wonderful.

While surprises are great sometimes, there are definitely sometimes that knowing ahead of time is a good thing. In light of this, I am excited to let you all know that we are going to start celebrating Communion on a more regular basis.

We will celebrate Communion on the last Sunday of each month. We come together in this Sacrament as we are reminded of the sacrifice Jesus made for us so that we are forgiven for our sins and are given life eternal. We are reminded of God's love for us in this meal, so we will come together every month to celebrate this Sacrament.

I have been reflecting on many things recently but one thing that I wanted to share with you is around comparison. I have spent so much of my life comparing myself to others. I have spent so much time thinking that other people were better than me in many different facets of life.

It can be so easy to think that other people have it better, are smarter, better at a job, etc. We compare ourselves to other people thinking that we need to be like them. We compare ourselves to other situations thinking that we need to have what they have or do what they do. It can be so easy to fall into this practice and spend so much time comparing so much of our lives with others.

Instead of doing this, it is so important to remember that we were not created to be the same. We were created to be different and unique, each offering our own gifts and talents in this world. If we were all similar, doing the same things, this world would be really boring!

Imagine if all the trees were the same, and come autumn time each year, we only had leaves turning all the same colour, or come spring, they all produce the same buds. The world has a variety of things which is what makes this world so beautiful.

We at Stonehaven Carronside have our own identity. We have gifts and talents that make us the church we are. We are not called to be like another church. We are called to embrace who we are and use our gifts and talents to go out and be the hands and feet of Jesus not only here in Stonehaven but throughout this world.

LETTER FROM THE MANSE contd.

As we continue to embrace who we are, let us continue to discover our gifts and talents. As you do that, I invite you to look to see how we can grow in our gifts. How do we use what we have as this congregation and continue to grow in reaching out to each other and our different communities?

The other thing I invite you each to do is to take time to see what gifts and talents you have. It can be easy to think that you don't have anything to offer this world but I promise you that you each have gifts and talents to bring to it. You each have things to bring to this church and your communities. There is no rating system on our different gifts and talents. We each have things to bring that make a difference that can be used to share God's love in this world and make a difference in our communities.

Let us come together sharing our gifts and talents to love the people in Stonehaven and our wider communities. We are reminded in the Gospel of Matthew that we are the lights of the world. We don't turn a lamp on or light a candle only to put it under a basket. We are invited to let our light shine brightly before others. We at Carronside have many gifts to share with this world, and we should not compare ourselves to others thinking that what we have isn't good enough. We have amazing things to share with this world, and so let us be brave and bold and go out and share these gifts.

So let us embrace ourselves, our gifts and talents. God has called us to go out and share this amazing love and grace in this world, and there are no prerequisites. There are no comparisons going on of who brings more to the table. We each have something to bring that is different, beautiful, and amazing. Let us fully embrace our diversity and go out and share it to make a beautiful and colourful world full of God's grace and love.

Let us not withhold any part of who we are, thinking that we are not good enough or don't have what is needed to make a difference. Let us share who we are and the gifts we have been given by God without holding anything back. We live in a beautiful world full of amazingly diverse people with many gifts and talents making this world the gorgeous place that it is.

As we come towards Advent, Christmas, and the New Year, I invite you to each see how your gifts and talents can be used in the ministry and mission of this church. As you share yourselves with this church, we can create a beautiful church full of love and grace. What a beautiful vision.

Sarah

DATES FOR THE DIARY

NOVEMBER			
Tues	1	Bowling - St Bridget's	2pm
Wed	2	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	3	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	4	Lunch Club - St. Bridget's	12.30pm
Sun	6	Service at Dunnottar Church	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	7	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study Group - St. Bridget's	10am 2-3pm
Tues	8	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	9	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	10	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	11	connecTions copy due	6pm
Sun	13	Remembrance Service Service at Edenholme	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	14	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study Group - St. Bridget's	10am 2-3pm
Tues	15	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	16	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	17	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	20	Service at Dunnottar Church Service at Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	21	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study Group - St. Bridget's	10am 2-3pm
Tues	22	Bowling - St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	23	Craft Group - St. Bridget's	2-4pm
Thu	24	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	27	Service at Dunnottar Church Service at Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm

Hall Bookings : Hazel McCartney - Tel 760 619

email carronsidehall@gmail.com

FLOWERS / FAMILY NEWS

FLOWERS

NOVEMBER	6 th	Deb Blacklaw
	13 th	Remembrance
	20 th	Judy Williamson
	27 th	Margaret Coutts

Contacts: Joyce Beaton, 07312 092684

Ruby Still, 07753 803449

FAMILY NEWS

DEATHS

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life"

14th October 2022: Mr George Marshall, Stonehaven

Our thoughts and prayers are with members who have had a bereavement of a close relative who was not themselves a member of Stonehaven Carronside Church.

SAFEGUARDING

Our Church should be a place where everyone is safe from harm and abuse.

If you suspect or witness harm or abuse, or if it is reported to you, please report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator (details below), who will then contact the Safeguarding Service for advice.

Contact: Dunnottar Church Safeguarding Coordinator

David Macdonald, 764 750

email: davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

*Flatter me and I may not believe you
Criticise me and I may not like you.
Ignore me and I may not forgive you.
Encourage me and I will not forget you.*

William Arthur Ward

DUTY ROTA

DUTY ROTA FOR NOVEMBER

6th	Stewards	Deborah Blacklaw Ruby Still	<u>Sound</u> Les Anderson
	Reader	John Balsillie	<u>Coffee</u> Diane Dart Stella Melville
13th	REMEMBRANCE - St James's Episcopal Church		
20th	Stewards	Moira McRae Catherine Knox	<u>Sound</u> Derek Hunter
	Reader	Moira McRae	<u>Coffee</u> Jean Houghton, Donald McRae
27th	Stewards	Isobel Allan Roberta Duncan	<u>Sound</u> Brian Sim
	Reader	Christine de Jonckheere	<u>Coffee</u> Carol Balsillie, May Arthur

DUTY ROTA FOR DECEMBER

4th	Stewards	Hazel McCartney May Arthur	<u>Sound</u> Les Anderson
	Reader	Hazel McCartney	<u>Coffee</u> Jackie Lawrence, Sam Davidson

OCTOBER QUIZ

Thanks to all of you who sent in an entry for the quiz in the October edition. Congratulations to Isobel Collie - a prize is on its way. The answers are:

1. Curiosity killed the cat, 2. There's no smoke without fire, 3. Birds of a feather flock together, 4. Great minds think alike, 5. Necessity is the mother of invention, 6. When the cat's away, the mice will play, 7. Look before you leap, 8. Great oaks from little acorns grow, 9. Spare the rod, spoil the child, 10. Still waters run deep, 10. Too many cooks spoil the broth, 11. A rolling stone gathers no moss, 12. A stitch in time saves nine, 13. Wonders will never cease, 14. Strike while the iron's hot, 15. People who live in glasshouses shouldn't throw stones, 16. All's well that ends well, 17. Cold hands, warm heart, 18. A watched kettle never boils, 20. A new broom sweeps clean, 21. Let sleeping dogs lie, 22. In for a penny, in for a pound, 23. Red sky at night, shepherd's delight, 24. The early bird catches the worm, 25. Better late than never

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS



STONEHAVEN GUILDS

The Stonehaven Guilds meet in Fetteresso Church Hall every second Tuesday afternoon at 2.00 pm. Last month there was a trip to the House of Dun and also to the Bungalow, a purpose-built care home in Stonehaven run by Crossreach for adults with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

This is the schedule for November and also the plans for Christmas meal and visit to the Ury Players Pantomime which this year is Sleeping Beauty.

2022

Nov 8 th	Far & Wide - Barbara McLean
Nov 22 nd	Giulianotti's Ice Cream - Marjorie Stephen
Dec 7 th	Christmas Meal/Pantomime

All welcome.

Contact: Joan Macdonald 760 471

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group offers on-going prayer support to those who wish it or to those for whom we are requested to pray. We are also supported by prayer recipients. Confidentiality is always respected and if you require prayer support, please speak to one of the following:-

Hazel Hunter, Ros Marshall, Pat Logue, Carol Balsillie or Moira McRae.

BIBLE GROUP

The Bible Study Group meets in St. Bridget's on Mondays from 2pm-3pm. We gather to read over a passage from the Bible, discuss it and see how to understand it in the light of our current context and what it might be saying to us in this day and age.

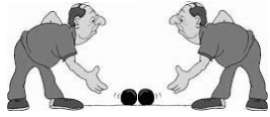
We are studying the Gospel of John. We are going slowly, and really digging into what the scripture is saying, what are the differences between translations, what we make of all of it and how it changes or shifts our understanding of that section.

All welcome.

Contact: Rev Sarah Smith, 762 166, (mob) 07756 006 385

*Some give their mite
Some give with all their might
And some don't give who might.*

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS



BOWLING

We have now been running for a month with steady numbers on two carpets. We also have 3 new members, all beginners, all progressing well and enjoying the game. Still happy to see more people on a Tuesday at 2pm.

We are happy to now have 5 men playing, which solves the problem of handling the carpets.

I would like to get more sets of small bowls, 0 or 1 sizes. Contact me if you can help me with this.

Why not come along and give it a go!

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387



THE CRAFT GROUP

The Craft Group got off to a good start with fourteen ladies knitting, sewing, quilting and catching up with friends and making new friends. The time flew past with of course a cup of tea half way through.

So come along all you crafters out there come and join us on Wednesday afternoons at 2pm till 4pm in St Bridget's Hall.

By the way are there no men out there with a craft or a hobby?

You would be made most welcome

Contact: May Arthur 07786 607633



KILWHANG RINGERS_

The Kilwhang Ringers continue to meet to practise in St. Bridget's on a Monday morning.

They are working on their Christmas programme and hope to play at events leading up to and during the festive season. They are booked to play at Hillside Guild and Mowat Court. They also hope to be playing at the Christingle Service on 24th December at 6pm in Dunnottar Church.

If you would like any information, please contact

Deb Blacklaw 07796 173 864

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

THE LUNCH BUNCH

We are going well with the lunches, since we started again and had 54 people last lunch.

They all enjoyed the choice of 3 soups, 3 hot puddings, and a laden table of cold sweets, tea/coffee and a piece - all for the price of £5 per person.

We would be pleased to welcome anyone who would like to attend and the next lunch will be Friday 4th November at 12.30pm in St Bridget's hall.

Please feel free to come and join us

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864

CAFÉ CARRONSIDE

Café Carronside is going from strength to strength and our thanks go to everyone who joins us to share fellowship and friendship.

We do have room for more, and as the days get cooler, we would be pleased to welcome anyone new to join us. the cost is £2 for a coffee/tea and a piece of home baking. Everyone is made most welcome.

We recently held a MacMillan Coffee morning and thanks to all the bakers, jam makers, and tablet makers (and of course the coffee drinkers!) we raised the fantastic sum of £665.90, which I am sure will be put to good use for this wonderful Charity - so many thanks to all.

We meet on a Thursday morning from 10 - 11.15 am at St Bridget's hall-all are welcome.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864

MacMillan Cancer support - How our donations can help

£71 can help run their Online Community forum for over 3 hours. giving nearly 198 people affected by cancer both emotional and practical support.

£100 can pay for a person affected by cancer to attend a health and wellbeing event, providing them with skills to improve the management of these areas in their lives.

£350 can pay for a Macmillan grant that helps a family affected by cancer take a holiday and enjoy precious time together.

£606 can pay for a Macmillan Support Worker for a week, helping patients, family members and carers manage the social and practical problems of living with cancer.

£1135 can pay for a Macmillan nurse for a week, helping people living with cancer and their families receive essential medical, practical and emotional support.

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

TASTY, TASTY, VERY VERY TASTY....

If you have been to Café Carronside on a Thursday morning, you may have tasted Diane Dart's Pineapple, coconut and fruit cake—it is really tasty and we have been asked by several people to share the recipe here for you to try!

Thanks to Diane who has responded to the request for her recipe:

PINEAPPLE, COCONUT AND FRUIT CAKE

Preheat oven - 190°, 170° fan, Gas 5

Grease and line a 2lb loaf tin

Ingredients

- 150g (5oz) Self Raising Flour
- 75g (3oz) Desiccated Coconut
- 75g (3oz) Caster Sugar
- 110g (4oz) Butter or Margarine
- 2 Eggs
- 227g Pineapple Chunks in Juice, chopped
- 75g (3oz) Sultanas
- 2 tbsp Granulated Sugar

Method

- In a mixing bowl, mix together flour, 50g (2oz) coconut, caster sugar, butter and eggs.
- Fold in pineapple chunks (reserve juice) and dried fruit.
- Spoon into prepared tin and smooth the top. Sprinkle with remaining coconut.
- Bake for 40–45 minutes until a skewer comes out clean (cover with foil if browning too quickly).
- Mix 5 tablespoons reserved pineapple juice with granulated sugar and spoon over the cake as soon as it comes out of the oven.
- Leave to cool in tin for 10 minutes before cooling on a wire rack.

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ: All the answers to the clues are streets in Stonehaven. Happy clue solving!

Entries to one of the Editorial Team by Saturday 19th November please.

"Half the world is composed of people who have something to say and can't and the other half is composed of those who have nothing to say and keep on saying it"

Robert Frost

WORLD MISSION

WORLD MISSION

THE GIVING TREE

“Christmas Creep” is a term first used in the mid-1980s. to describe the irritating way that shops exploit the commercialized status of Christmas by moving up the start of selling of Christmas related items. Every year the Christmas season seems to start earlier and earlier so that retailers have more of a chance to sell.

In Stonehaven Carronside Church we have already been shopping for gifts for Christmas—but not for ourselves. We have been filling shoeboxes for Eastern Europe, which had to be returned by 30th October because of the distance they have to travel overland to get to their destination.

This month we start collecting gifts for the **Giving Tree** for disadvantaged families closer to home. Pick up a bag, pop in a **new toy or game which does not require batteries**. Do not wrap the gift as the Salvation Army people need to be able to decide who it will best suit. The target age range is 0-16. Please return your gift to the Church or St Bridget’s by the end of November so that we can deliver to the Salvation Army in time for Christmas distribution.

So, instead of getting irritated by Christmas Creep, why not take advantage of it to purchase a gift for this year’s Giving Tree?

Contact: Eileen Sim, 762 038

INDIA VILLAGE MINISTRIES

Allan Cairnduff reports:

We have had some upsetting news from India. The Hindu government are issuing new restrictive laws regarding groups from other religions.

IVM have complied with all the restrictions but are not allowed to run the orphanage as before, they can feed, clothe and educate the children but they must be returned to their extended families overnight. There must also be teaching of the Hindu religion.

They have only 10 residential children who have no families.

Suresh and his team are now working with the ‘untouchables’ in the slums around the orphanage, feeding and clothing the poorest, who have been decimated by Covid.

Suresh still needs your financial support, £15 feeds a family of four for 15 days.

Keep everyone in IVM in your thoughts and prayers as they strive to spread the Word of God against overwhelming odds.

Any contributions are gratefully received.

RICHARD MICHAEL IN CONCERT

RICHARD MICHAEL'S CONCERT

Award winning pianist and educator Richard Michael BEM returned to his native Stonehaven to give a concert in Dunnottar Church on Friday 30th September. This concert was originally scheduled for September 2020 but like so many things was postponed due to Covid.

Born and brought up in Stonehaven, he went on to study at (and graduate from in 1971) the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. Richard is recognized as one of the UK's leading jazz pianists and educators, having taught thousands of youngsters the art of improvisation through his pioneering work in leading the Fife Youth Jazz Orchestra since 1972. He is Honorary Professor of Jazz Piano at St Andrews University and has a new best-selling book published by Hal Leonard Inc. called "Jazz Piano for Kids".

Richard began his professional career through gigs in hotels in Stonehaven and Aberdeen (where he played with the Alec Sutherland Band) and with his dad's concert party.

He told the appreciative audience that he didn't realise it at the time but the amount of performing he did as a youngster in his father John Michael's Concert Party prepared him for the life he leads now, giving concerts and leading workshops around the country and abroad. From his Dad he learned that it doesn't matter whether you are playing in a village hall or the Albert Hall, it's your duty always to give of your best

He played a wide range of music, including pieces from George Gershwin, Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, Duke Ellington as well as some pieces that are connected to Robert Burns.

We learned about the importance of using your thumbs and the ways to improvise. We even heard some jazzed up hymns, including Amazing Grace.

If you missed the concert, Richard Michael is on YouTube, Apple Music and Spotify. He is also featured every Sunday night on Radio Scotland's "Jazz Nights".

A HUGE thank you to Richard Michael for a wonderful concert and to to Moira McRae and all who helped to organise this. Well done!

'A jazz musician is a juggler who uses harmonies instead of oranges.'
Benny Green.

(Richard certainly demonstrated **his** juggling skills on the keyboard!)

SAY YES TO THE DRESS ! / QUIZZES

Last month we included an article about the wedding of pianist/record producer Christopher Caird Dominique and Tess. Christopher is half Scottish/half Swedish with a Scottish father and Swedish mother and he chose Dunnottar Church after researching his family history.

We have included an insert this month with a photo of the wedding and when Christopher sent them to us, he said that the Swedish traditional dress is worth a mention in more detail.

The dress comes from a province around a town in Sweden called Växjö. The surrounding area is the shire of "Värend" and has a special place in folklore history.

According to the myth, A Danish army tried to invade the province when all the men were away fighting elsewhere and the women, led by a woman named Blenda, invited the Danes to join them in a feast.

In the night when the Danes had passed out from all the ale, Blenda and the women slaughtered all of the Danes in their sleep.

In honour of this heroic act the ladies of this province are the only women in Sweden that are allowed to have the ruling king's emblem embroidered on their dresses.

The daughters of Blenda, as they are referred to, were also granted the right to inherit equal shares from their fathers and also the right to dress in complete battle armour when travelling to church on their wedding day!

Christopher's maternal grandmother made her dress in 1974 and it has the emblem of the current Swedish King.

His mother gifted the dress to his wife after the wedding.

A good marriage is the union of two forgivers - Ruth Bell Graham

HARVEST SERVICE

The annual Harvest service took place on Sunday 9th October. The Church was decorated with harvest themed items and members of the congregation were invited to bring dry and canned goods as donations. These were later passed on to Far and Wide for their Food Bank. There was a good response to this appeal and a large quantity of items have been passed on for distribution to those in need of help.

After morning worship in Dunnottar Church, some of the decorations were transferred to St Bridget's where there was a short service in the afternoon for some of the elderly residents of local Care Homes. Following the service afternoon tea was served.



"WIND AND WATERTIGHT"

The Property Convenor reports:

"Wind and Watertight" is equal only to "Health & Safety" as the first priority for any building. If your building is not wind and watertight then you will have endless problems with damage to internal structures and to the health & welfare of people using the building.

Damage can include rot and weakness in the complex wooden structures which support our roofs. Plaster in our walls & ceilings and rendering on our walls can become "boss" (separating from its support structures). Electrical circuits can trip out due to dangerous short circuits. Water leaks destroy carpets and cause slips & falls on wet floors. Drafts from damaged glass or poorly maintained window frames leave us cold & uncomfortable and increase our (already large) energy bills.

Between 2014 and 2018, with the assistance of an architect and the then Safety Consultant for the General Trustees (the Property Department for the Church of Scotland), we set out to inspect and repair the Dunnottar Church roof. We focussed on issues such as the structures below the slates, the stonework along the edges of the roof, the decorative features (such as the cross and the orb above the doorways) and the stability of the bell housing. The value of the regular maintenance over decades by our own slater, Bill Smith, was clear when the structures under the slates were inspected. Most of the issues dealt with were the results of the passage of time and constant exposure to wind, rain and frost.

Recently, I set out to find a roofing company with the resources and willingness to carry out regular inspections of the roofs in all three ecclesiastical buildings. Experience in working with the traditional materials and techniques required for listed buildings such as ours was essential. I was grateful to the Presbytery Buildings Officer for his assistance.

In the last year we have inspected the roofs of all three buildings. There will always be a small number of slates to be straightened up or replaced. As expected, there was little else to do at Dunnottar Church. At St Bridget's we renewed the roofing materials and slates on the cupola, which also houses an important vent for the Hall.

In South Church, significant work was carried out in the summer on the slates, the skews (which seal the space between the gables and the slates) and other structures. Further urgent work was required on two valley gutters and wooden structures in the space under the roof and we will be discussing other issues over the winter months.

"WIND AND WATERTIGHT"/SESSION SNIPPETS

"Wind and Watertight" involves windows as well as roofs. In the last couple of years, the condition of the external framing on the large window above the path to the Hall door at South Church began to deteriorate. This framing held in place the secondary glazing for the stained-glass window, so there was concern for the safety of passers-by as well as for the stained-glass window that it protects.

"Wind and Watertight" **and** "Health & Safety"! Within a short time, we had identified a joinery firm who recommended an affordable means of stabilising the structure. This repair was successfully completed in April this year.

As always, it would be good if we could have a bigger team that I could call on from time to time to let a contractor in or to carry out a simple safety check.

Please call me to find out how you could help. Any help at all would make a big difference to me!

**Contact: David Macdonald - 07751 195321
davidmacdonald153@gmail.com**

*May the roof above you never fall in,
And those gathered beneath it never fall out.*

SESSION SNIPPETS

*No Session Snippets report this month as the Session Clerk is away.
There will be a report in the next magazine.*

The Session met as scheduled on Wednesday 28th September and agreed to reintroduce 2 actions to morning worship which had had to stop due to Covid restrictions.

One is that the Bible is carried in to the church at the start of the service ahead of the Minister and placed on the lectern. It is carried out at the end of the service after the Benediction. This who are able are asked to stand as this is done.

The Bible is carried in and out open as a signal that God's Word is accessible to all at all times.

The other return to pre-covid times is that the offering is taken up during the service in place of the plate at the door for donations.

*Always remember to forget the things that made you sad.
But never forget to remember the things that made you glad.
Always remember to forget the friends that proved untrue.
But never forget to remember those that have stuck by you.
Always remember to forget the troubles that passed away.
But never forget to remember
the blessings that come each day.*

REMEMBRANCE POPPIES

Many people choose to wear a poppy in November for Remembrance Day to show respect for the people who died fighting in the First World War and the conflicts that followed it.

From its inception the Scottish Poppy Appeal has always operated independently from The Royal British Legion's appeal in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

The Earl Haig Fund (Scotland) was registered as a distinct charity in 1956. In 2006 they changed their trading name to Poppyscotland to reflect a new year-round fundraising focus. Although the charity is now well recognised as Poppyscotland, Earl Haig Fund (Scotland) remains the registered charity name.

Funds raised from the Scottish Poppy Appeal and other fundraising campaigns by Poppyscotland are used exclusively to support the Armed Forces and veterans' community living in Scotland.

The red poppy is the most famous symbol used to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in World War One and conflicts that followed. Wearing a poppy was inspired by the fields of poppies that grew where many of the battles were fought. The red poppy is connected to the Royal British Legion - a charity created by veterans of World War One. They say that the red poppy represents remembrance and hope.

But there are other coloured poppies too - purple, black and white - that have different meanings.

The purple poppy is often worn to remember animals that have been victims of war.

Animals like horses, dogs and pigeons were often drafted into the war effort, and those that wear the purple poppy feel their service should be seen as equal to that of human service.

In particular, many horses were killed or injured in World War One. Donations to the Purple Poppy Appeal, which is organised by the War Horse Memorial, will go to charities like World Horse Welfare and the animal charity, Blue Cross.

The black poppy has two different meanings attached to it.

It is most commonly associated with the commemoration of black, African and Caribbean communities' contribution to the war effort - as servicemen and servicewomen, and as civilians.

Some people feel that the red poppy glorifies war and conflict.

Instead, they might choose to wear a white poppy. The white poppy is handed out by a charity called Peace Pledge Union, which promotes peace. They say that the white poppy commemorates people who died in conflict but focuses on achieving peace and challenging the way we look at war.

A WEE SMILE

The wise old Mother Superior was dying. The nuns gathered round her bed, trying to make her comfortable. They gave her some warm milk to drink but she refused it. Then one nun took the glass back to the kitchen. Remembering a bottle of whisky received as a gift the previous Christmas, she opened it and poured a generous amount into the warm milk. Back at the Mother Superior's bed, she held the glass to her lips. Mother drank a little, then a little more and before they knew it, she had emptied the glass.

"Mother, Mother," cried the nuns. "Give us some wisdom before you die." She raised herself up in bed and with a pious look on her face, pointed out of the window and said "Don't sell that cow!"

"What am I supposed to do with this?" grumbled a motorist as a policeman handed him a speeding ticket. "Keep it," said the policeman. "When you have 4 of them, you get a bicycle."

A six-year-old girl had been so naughty that her mother decided to teach her a lesson. She told her she couldn't go to the summer fete. Then when the day came, she felt she had been too harsh and changed her mind. When she told her daughter she could go to the fete, the child's reaction was one of gloom and disappointment. "What's the matter? She asked." "I thought you'd be pleased."

"It's too late!" replied her daughter. "I've already prayed for rain, storms and thunder!"

One Sunday a young boy was 'acting up' during a church service. The parents did their best to maintain some sort of order in the pew but were losing the battle.

Finally, the father picked the boy up and walked sternly down the aisle towards the church door. Just before they went into the vestibule, the boy called loudly to the congregation, "Pray for me! Pray for me!"

It was Christmas and the judge was in a merry mood as he asked the prisoner, "What are you charged with?"

"Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the defendant.

"That's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing the shopping?"

"Before the shop opened," was the reply.

During the children's address, the minister was talking about communion and what it is all about. He said "The Bible talks of Communion as being a joyful feast. What does that mean? Well joyful means happy and a feast is a meal. So, a joyful feast is a happy meal. He paused. "So, what are the three things we need for a happy meal?"

A little boy put up his hand and said "Hamburger, fries and a regular soft drink?"

PRAYERS

NOVEMBER PRAYER

Lord as I remember in prayer
all my loved ones departed.
I ask you
to bless them all,
all the deceased in my family,
all my loved ones and friends.
May they know light, happiness
and peace.

Surround me
with your consoling peace.
Gladden my heart
with hope.

Keep me
always in your care,
and gently touch me
in thought and prayer
with your loving presence.

Amen.

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STAY WITH US, LORD

Walk with us, dear Lord,
As we journey on our way;

Talk with us, dear Lord,
May we listen to all you say;

Share with us, dear Lord,
As we lift our hearts to pray;

Abide with us, dear Lord,
At the closing of the day.

Amen.

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<i>SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</i>

MINISTER	Rev Sarah Smith	762 166 manse 07756 006 385 mob
SESSION CLERK	Mr Brian Sim	762 038
ORGANIST	contact through Ros Marshall	
ROLL KEEPER	contact through Session Clerk	
HALL BOOKINGS	Mrs Hazel McCartney	760 619
FINANCE	Mr John Balsillie	740 684
FWO	Mr Les Anderson	764 845
PROPERTY	Mr David Macdonald	764 750
SAFEGUARDING	Mr David Macdonald	764 750
LIFE & WORK	Mrs Margaret Ross	763 316
connecTions		
EDITORIAL GROUP	Elaine Craig, Steve Craig, Diane Dart, Morag Duncan, Catherine Knox, Katherine Mathers, Jennifer Macdonald	
CLERICAL ASSISTANT	contact through J Macdonald	764 750
CHURCH OFFICE	St Bridget's Hall	Dunnottar Avenue Stonehaven AB39 2JD