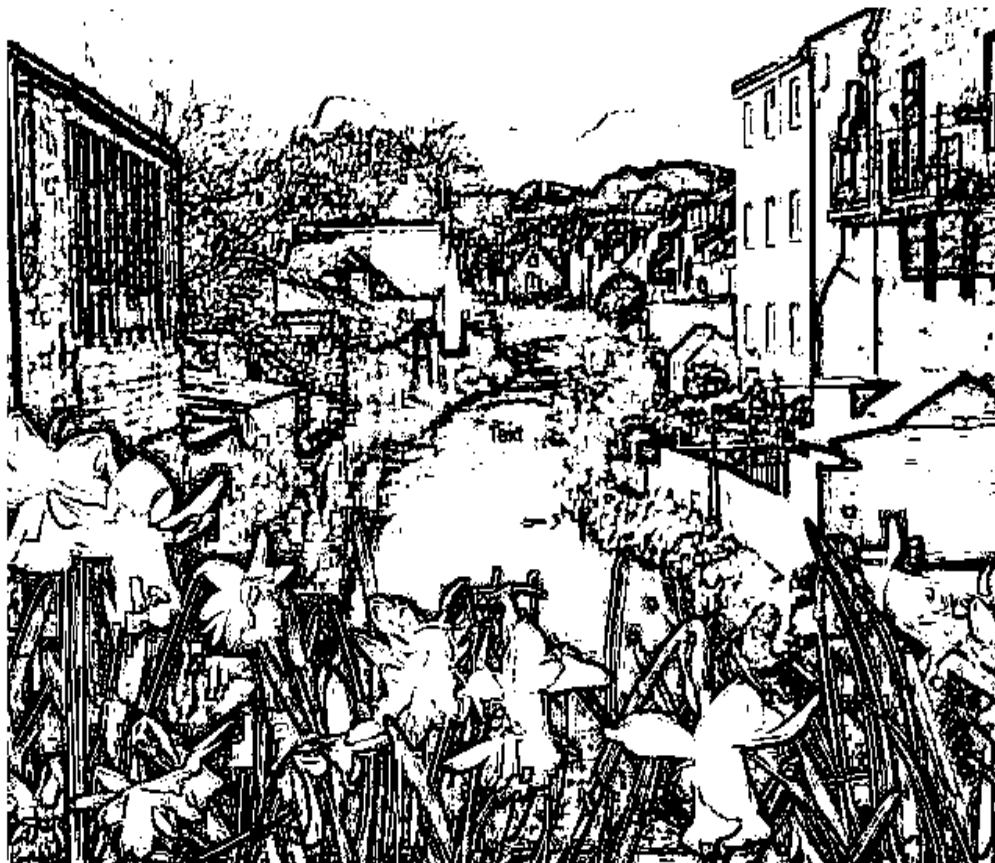


connections



the magazine of
Stonehaven Carronside
Church of Scotland

April

2024

*Scottish Charity Number SC013165
Connections No. 21*

CONNECT WITH CONNECTIONS

As you are aware, this is the April edition of **connecTions** and April is supposed to be the second month of spring. However the weather over the past few weeks feels much more like winter than spring. Now that we have put the clocks forward, let's hope things will improve so that we don't have too many "April Showers". We can but hope.

Who would have thought there were so many special events in April? Did you know that April is Lawn and Garden Month and National Poetry Month, or that Week 2 is Garden Week (I think all weeks are garden weeks now that Winter is past!), Week 3 is Organise Your Files Week and Week 4 is National Karaoke Week?

And of course there's April Fool's Day on the 1st, Unicorn Day on the 9th, National Pet Day on the 11th, Scrabble Day on the 13th, Titanic Remembrance Day on the 15th, World Penguin Day on the 25th, Take Your Daughter to Work on the 25th and National Honesty Day on the 30th - another one that should be every day, not just once!

We have many events of our own in April in our Church calendar. One special one is the Spring Sale and Coffee morning on Saturday 20th April. Do make sure this one is in your diary!

The deadline for articles for the May magazine is 6pm on Wednesday 24th April. Send them to jenniferrmacdonald@hotmail.com

Editorial Group:

Elaine Craig	Steve Craig
Diane Dart	Catherine Knox
Katherine Mathers	Sandra McLennan
Jennifer Macdonald	

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: Carronside Church Safeguarding Coordinator

David Macdonald, 764 750

email: davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

*April
April is a rainbow month,
Of sudden springtime showers.
Bright with golden daffodils
And lots of pretty flowers.*

GradeOnederful.com

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

LETTER FROM THE MANSE

April 2024

I have been realising that it has been 4 years since we heard that dreaded word lockdown.

I had arrived in Scotland two weeks earlier, into Edinburgh and the Six Nations taking part, with France playing Scotland at Murrayfield. I was able to see Edinburgh completely packed with people who were there for the match.

Then I started my familiarisation placement in a church just outside of Edinburgh and my first day was a Sunday. It was the last day we could be in the church before having to close the doors of the church and not being sure when we would be able to get back in.

The thinking was that it would only last for a few weeks, maybe a month, and then “normality” would resume.

Little did we know how much things would change and we had to find a new normal.

We had to work within restrictions of how long we could go for a walk and how far we could go from our houses. We were living in a time and place of complete uncertainty and wondering what we do.

How do we keep going on as the church in this time when we can't gather in person?

How do we connect with people when we have to deal with limits on how many people we can meet and the distance between each other, not to mention facemasks.

As we look back on those times, which seemed like forever ago, and yet, at the same time, not long ago, what have we learned?

I know one thing that I have learned is how important human interaction, connection and touch is. I am a hugger. I love giving hugs and getting hugs. My family is always excited when they see me because I give good hugs.

Sometimes, it is when we remove so many things that we remind ourselves what is really truly important to us.

When we strip back all of those things that we have done and we just got used to doing and ask ourselves what really matters to us and what is truly important, what is that thing for you?

LETTER FROM THE MANSE *contd.* / FAMILY NEWS

We have just celebrated Easter. We have shouted our Alleluias and that Christ is risen. We have heard the story of God's amazing and enormous love for us that is shown in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

We are reminded that that death never has the last word and what good news that is. This is so much at the core of the message of Christianity. This is the important thing. We are loved by God more than we could ever imagine.

My invitation to you is to find out what really matters to you. There is no right answer.

As I said before, I realised during the pandemic and lockdown how much I missed human connection and touch and how much I missed hugs. Hugs are part of the way I show people that they are loved. It is a way of knowing that I am loved and this is so important to me. I keep this front and centre in my life and ministry. What is your thing?

Happy Easter!!

FAMILY NEWS

DEATHS

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

2024

8th March Gertrude Annie Roger, Stonehaven

9th March Isobel MacDonald, Aberdeen, formerly Stonehaven

12th March: Morag Murdoch, Stonehaven

18th March: Robin Walker, 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.

May Time Soften Your Pain

In times of darkness, love sees...

In times of silence, love hears...

In times of doubt, love hopes...

In times of sorrow, love heals...

And in all times, love remembers.

May time soften the pain

Until all that remains

Is the warmth of the memories

And the love.

Anon

DATES FOR THE DIARY - April

APRIL			
Tues	2	Bowling – St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	3	Craft Group – St. Bridget's	2pm
Thu	4	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Fri	5	Monthly Lunch Club - St. Bridget's	12.30pm
Sun	7	Morning Worship - Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	8	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's	10am
Tues	9	Bowling – St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	10	Craft Group – St. Bridget's	2pm
Thu	11	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	14	Morning Worship - Dunnottar Church Edenholme	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	15	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study - St. Bridget's	10am 2pm
Tue	16	Bowling – St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	17	Craft Group – St. Bridget's	2pm
Thurs	18	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sat	20	Spring Sale and Coffee morning - St. Bridget's	10am-12pm
Sun	21	Morning Worship - Dunnottar Church	10.30am
Mon	22	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study - St. Bridget's	10am 2pm
Tues	23	Bowling – St. Bridget's	2pm
Wed	24	Craft Group – St. Bridget's Service at Mowat Court Magazine copy due	2pm 2.30pm by 6pm
Thu	25	Café Carronside - St. Bridget's	10-11.30am
Sun	28	Morning Worship - Dunnottar Church Communion Service at Clashfarquhar	10.30am 2.30pm
Mon	29	Kilwhang Ringers - St. Bridget's Bible Study - St. Bridget's	10am 2pm

**Hall Bookings : Hazel McCartney - Tel 07748 270132
email carronsidehall@gmail.com**

SPRING SALE

SPRING SALE AND COFFEE MORNING

One of the signs of spring in Carronside Church has to be the spring sale and coffee morning which is on Saturday 20th April in St Bridget's.

Please look out items to donate to the stalls

The £1 stall will be there so any donations of bric a brac small enough to display on a table will be warmly welcomed. There will be a box in the office at St Bridget's where you can leave donations.

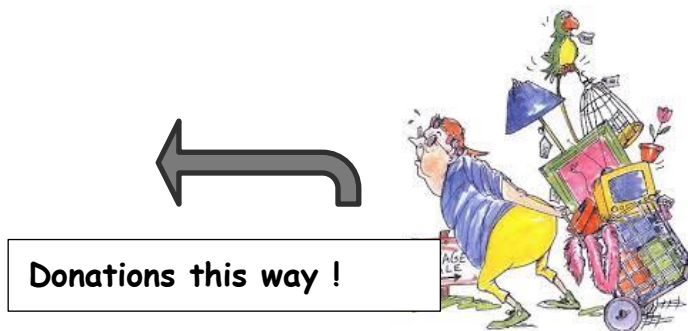
There will also be a Match the Number. Allan Cairnduff looks forward to receiving donations of bottles for this stall.

Karen Smith will be happy to accept items for the Hamper and the Craft group will also have a hamper of household items.

There will be a bookstall—but paperbacks please—not hardbacks.

PLEASE LOOK OUT DONATIONS FOR THE STALLS

You can also hand donations in at St Bridget's on Friday 19th April between 6.30pm and 8pm and on Saturday 20th between 8am and 9.30am.



There will be other stalls on the day

so

***MAKE A NOTE OF THE DATE AND TIME IN YOUR DIARY
AND
COME ALONG AND SUPPORT THIS IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER
FOR OUR CHURCH***

FLOWERS / DUTY ROTAS

FLOWER ROTA	
APRIL	
7	Elaine Craig
14	Derek Hunter
21	Christine Cordiner
28	Ann Swan

Contacts: Joyce Beaton, 07312 092684

Ruby Still, 07753 803449

CHURCH DUTY ROTA

APRIL			
7	Stewards Reader	H Paterson, R Still B Sim	Sound L Anderson Coffee S Davidson, J Lawrence
14	Stewards Reader	M McRae, L Vass M McRae	Sound D Macdonald Coffee R Duncan, J Irvine
21	Stewards Reader	L Pollard, J Houghton L Pollard	Sound B Sim Coffee J Beaton, D Blacklaw
28	Stewards Reader	H McCartney, C Balsillie H McCartney	Sound D Hunter Coffee D Dart, M Whittet

CAFÉ CARRONSIDE ROTA FOR APRIL

APRIL	coffee	kitchen	serve / bake	serve
4	Sam	Moir	Jean	Jackie
11	Deb	Allan Jennifer	Joyce	Stella
18	Deb	Allan Jennifer	Roberta	Sharon
25	Deb	Allan Jennifer	Diane	Sandra
MAY				
2	Sam	Janice	Jean	Carol

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

KILWHANG RINGERS

We continue to practise on Monday mornings at St Bridget's and have 16 ringers playing most weeks. We have two concerts this month, going to Hillside Pensioners and the Ladies Section at Stonehaven British Legion.

We have our annual Coffee Morning in May, which is our main fundraiser, to help us buy new music to expand our repertoire.

All are welcome to join us on the Saturday 18th May at St Bridget's, from 10am -12pm. We will be playing a range of our pieces during the morning and have some stalls to browse round also.

Please get in touch if you would like any more information about our group.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864

THE CRAFT GROUP

On the 20th March, Joyce Beaton demonstrated how to create a posy bowl arrangement. Wonderful what can be achieved, using a few flowers and greenery from the garden. Our efforts were used on Saturday 23rd March to decorate the tables at the rescheduled Lifeboat Coffee Morning.

The group meets on Wednesday afternoons from 2-4pm in St. Bridget's Hall to do craft, chat and have a cup of tea.

Contact: May Arthur 07786 607633

BOWLING

This will be the last bowling report for this year. We have had a very successful and enjoyable year with membership now at 18. Latest joiners are Helen Knight and Hugh McQuistan, neither having bowled before but they are getting a good grasp of the game very quickly. I need to make another appeal for sets of bowls, 0 or 1 if possible.

We finish on 23rd April and I think everyone will be sad to finish - it's a happy wee group!

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387
email amcairnduff777 @ gmail.com

JIGSAW LIBRARY

Reminder of a selection of 500- and 1000-piece jigsaws for hire on Thursday mornings at Café Carronside to raise funds for the India Village Ministries. 500 piece puzzles cost £1 and £2 for 1000 piece ones. You have eight weeks to complete and return them. If you are a jigsaw fiend, come and have a look and choose one to take home!

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387
email amcairnduff777 @ gmail.com

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

THE LUNCH BUNCH

Our March lunch was the biggest ever, with 79 folk attending!

Our next lunch is on the 5th April at St Bridget's, when we offer a choice of three soups, three hot puddings, several cold sweets, tea/coffee and mints, for the price of £5.00.

Several folk have asked why the price has never gone up, but we feel that with costs nowadays, we would rather have everyone attending and enjoying the company.

We do have a donation plate out, if anyone feels they would like to pay a little extra, this would be most welcome.

We start at 12.30pm, so please be seated before this, as we only have one seating and may not be able to accommodate you if you are not there on time - thank you.

If you require more information, please get in touch.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864

CAFÉ CARRONSIDE

Thank you to everyone who turns up for the coffee weekly whatever the weather. We hope we will see more of you once the weather cheers up a bit.

Everyone is welcome to come to St Bridget's hall between 10am 11.30am. We offer a cup of tea or coffee and a choice of bakes - scones, pancakes, loaves, sponges, all homemade by our wonderful volunteers. The cost is only £2.00. The chat and company are free!!

Please get in touch if you need any more information.

Contact: Deb Blacklaw, 07796 173 864

RECIPE FOR HAPPINESS

Ingredients

1 large smile
2 cups of sweetness
A large helping of positivity
A good sense of humour
1 cup of self-esteem
2 spoonfuls of true faith
1 spoonful of good will
2 pinches of easy-going
and
A heart full of love

Mix all ingredients together and share with family and friends

www.daveswordsofwisdom.com

YOUR MONTHLY DIARY OF EVENTS

STONEHAVEN GUILDS

The Guild meets every two weeks at 2pm in Fetteresso Church Hall.

Thanks to Roberta Duncan for these reports on the Guild meetings on 27th February and 12th March

Guild meeting 27th February

The meeting was opened with a hymn and a short prayer. Joan then introduced three third-year occupational therapist students from RGU - lovely girls Nuria, Jade and Olivia. They talked on the risks and hazards facing the elderly in their own home. They also spoke about the various equipment available like kitchen appliances to assist chopping, cutting and lid-removing etc. We finished with the usual cuppa, with the girls mingling and answering questions.

Guild meeting 12th March

Project: 'Let us Build a House' Kathleen Smith opened the meeting and we sang the hymn 'Let us Build a House', this being the project for the next three years. Then we were given a little wooden birdhouse and crayons to decorate it, just as a house is more than a building, so the Guild fellowship is so much more than an afternoon meeting. The meeting finished with a lovely afternoon tea.

The AGM will take place on Tuesday 26th March.
All welcome.

Contact: Joan Macdonald, 760 471

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study group meets in St. Bridget's on Mondays from 2pm - 3pm. They will resume after the Easter break on the 15th of April. We will finish studying the Gospel of John and then do something new which has still to be decided. All are welcome.

Contact: Rev Sarah Smith, 762 166

April changes her sweet mind every other second
With her many moods and minds
Nothing can be reckoned.
I always carry an umbrella
It serves for rain and sun
I take my boots and out I go
To share in April's fun

Lenore Hetrick

SUPERSTITIONS

Definitions vary, but they commonly describe superstitions as irrational beliefs at odds with scientific knowledge of the world. Here are a few with their origins.

Opening umbrellas indoors isn't the smartest option as you could knock over and break things or cause physical harm to yourself or someone else in close proximity. In ancient Egypt, umbrellas were needed to protect noble and high-class people from the sun. Opening umbrellas indoors was considered offensive to the Sun God.

Walking Under Ladders This superstition often associates with Christianity and the Trinity-the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit-and because an open ladder leaning against a wall looks like a triangle. When someone walks under the ladder, it looks like they're "breaking" the triangle. Not to mention, walking under ladders may cause harm to you and the person standing on the ladder because it can tip and fall or items may land on your head.

Throwing Spilled Salt Over Shoulder Taking a pinch of spilled salt and tossing it over the left shoulder is intended to keep the devil at bay because he sits on the left while an angel sits on the right.

Touching wood The Celts believed that spirits and gods lived in trees. Knocking on tree trunks was done to rouse the deities to give protection or a stroke of good luck if done in gratitude. The other connection is Christians regarding this practice as knocking on the wood of the cross, a symbol of Jesus Christ's crucifixion.

Breaking a mirror The belief that a broken mirror brings bad luck most likely has its origins in the simple fact that reflections of ourselves are uncanny and often unnerving (particularly on a "bad hair" day), so humans have long had bad associations with them. Take, for example, the Greek myth of Narcissus, or the idea that a crack in a mirror would somehow break its charm or trap one's soul.

Fingers Crossed The superstition of crossing one's fingers to bring the "finger-crosser" good luck comes from pre-Christian times when the practice of making a cross with your own and the index finger of another person was thought to concentrate the forces of good spirits and seal a pact or a wish with the fellow-crosser. Over time, people realised they could simply bless their own wishes by crossing first their two index fingers, and then later simply the index and middle fingers of one hand, which is what we do today.

Break a match It is said that bad luck comes in threes. One theory is that the superstition emerged during the Crimean War, where soldiers were warned against lighting three cigarettes from the same match to avoid being spotted by the enemy. If two bad things happen, you should break a match to stop any more misfortune.

200th ANNIVERSARY OF RNLI

200th ANNIVERSARY OF RNLI

On 4th March 1824 in the trendy London Tavern Bishopsgate Sir William Hilary's vision for a service dedicated to saving lives at sea became a reality when the Royal National Lifeboat Institution was founded.

The story of the RNLI is one of courage and dedication when lifesavers have answered the call to rescue, day or night, in calm seas or in ferocious storms, those in peril on the sea. In the 200 years since the first RNLI lifeboat launch more than 144,000 lives have been saved.

The first RNLI lifeboat in Stonehaven was the St George in 1868. This lifeboat, while on a call to the barque 'Grace Darling', capsized and foundered on the rocks behind Aberdeen harbour in 1874 with the loss of the Coxswain and three of his crew. A memorial to the four men lost stands in Cowie Churchyard.

In 1934 the lifeboat station in Stonehaven was closed. 33 years later RNLI stationed a D class lifeboat in the town until 1985 when the station was again closed.

In 2013 the RNLI re-opened the station and an Atlantic 85 class lifeboat is now in operation. Currently there are 32 volunteer members of the crew, 20 of whom are sea-going, and the others have shore duties such as launch authorities and tractor drivers. All crew have to undergo rigorous training and many are Casualty Care trained.

This organisation relies on its running costs to be funded by public subscription and as a result all-round the country there are volunteer fundraisers who work tirelessly to make it all happen. There has been a fundraising group in Stonehaven since 1957 and in that time it has raised many thousands of pounds. Everyone can find a place in this great organisation to help save lives at sea.

Volunteers are at the heart of the RNLI and on 4th March 2024 1,800 of them from all round the UK and Ireland attended a Service in Westminster Abbey to celebrate 200 years of saving lives at sea. Keith Gaskin and Steven Sinclair from Stonehaven were there and described the experience as wonderful.

A crew member from Anstruther Lifeboat has written a new verse for the hymn Eternal Father Strong to Save and it was sung at the service in the Abbey.

*O Lord, entrust their souls safe keep
as lifeboats plough o'er oceans deep
lend them your courage, strength and grace
to those in peril, they must race
Oh hear us Lord, a sailor's plea
guide all who save lives out at sea.*

Thanks to Karen Smith for writing this article for us

SESSION SNIPPETS

SESSION SNIPPETS April 24

Although Duncan Begg was presented with his Long Service certificate, you won't be able to see him too well in the group photo on the Presbytery website. Despite being one of the tallest there, he has managed to "disappear" behind the gent on the extreme right of the picture! We have other photos of the Moderator with the different congregational recipients, but not one with Duncan!

Louisa Greenwell is looking to stand down as Presbytery Elder at the end of June – the end of the "Presbytery year". On checking back the records, I found that Louisa has been a Presbytery Elder since the start of the 2007/8 Presbytery year at Dunnottar, transferring to Carronside in 2019. That's a magnificent 17 years' service to our local area. Session is seeking a volunteer to fill this post with many of the meetings being held on Zoom videoconferencing.

The official "For Sale" sign has been erected at the South Church front door but no viewings to date. This could be a long process. We have now been allowed to carry out the urgent repairs to the roof to maintain "wind and water tight conditions". Presbytery and the General Trustees have acknowledged that this work must be done and we're drawing down the necessary funds from the Consolidated Fabric Fund.

Session is looking for help on the Finance front under the following headings:

1. Bookkeeping using Xero software
2. Management Accounts – using budget headings to produce reports.
3. Payroll Management & contact with HMRC
4. Gift Aid Management

ARH Accountants will carry out these functions but we need some assistance here. You don't need to be an Elder for this – just keen to help! **We also need a Treasurer!**

Seriously, Session must appoint both a Treasurer and an Elder to represent them at Presbytery - these are mandatory requirements. Help us, we pray!

Session has decided to proceed with the total upgrade of the Audio-Visual facilities at Dunnottar. It won't be cheap but most of the present kit wasn't new this century and we should have proper live streaming facilities – so Moira, Jennifer and Sarah will be able to get their phones back!

**Brian Sim, Session Clerk tel 01569 762038;
email bsim84@gmail.com**

St BRIDGET'S HALL

This article and photos were posted by the Scottish Churches Trust on Facebook on Friday 15th March 2024. The aim of Scottish Churches Trust is "to advance the preservation, promotion and understanding of Scotland's rich architectural heritage represented in its churches. Every single one of Scotland's churches contains a collection of unique cultural, artistic and historic artefacts telling the story of individuals and their communities, sometimes stretching back centuries. These objects can be of local, national and even, on occasion, international significance."

On 15th March, the Trust decided to combine their FerrousFriday and FlowersonFriday posts into one with a close-up of one of the 'delightful flowers on the decorative iron gates outside the lovely little 'Arts & Crafts era' St Bridget's Church Hall in Stonehaven'. (Their words, not ours..but we agree with the comment!) *You will all have seen these gates .. but have you looked closely at them?*

Built by G P K Young of Perth, with later alterations, St Bridget's was opened as a church in its own right on the 25th January 1888.

In 1885 it was decided by the Kirk Session of Dunnottar Parish Church that they needed a mission church to meet the needs of a growing population, mainly the fishing community of the Old Town. The cost of building was £1300, over half of which was met by funds raised at a two-day sale of work. Items for sale included gilt chairs from Paris and a chest containing 40lb of tea grown on the Fetteresso Estate, Ceylon, as well as fish and livestock- not like our sales these days! The church of St Bridget was opened on January 25th, 1888. It was rededicated in 1970 after conversion to a hall church.

A photograph of the church interior before conversion to a hall church shows fixed timber pews, carved pulpit and large round-headed traceried window to the north wall. The model fishing boat which is on display on one of the windowsills used to be suspended above the nave, a reminder of the fishing community associated with the original Mission Church.



PLASTIC FREE STONEHAVEN

*This article was written for us by Jane Cruickshank of the Bellman.
Thank you Jane.*

You can read lots of news about Stonehaven at www.thebellman.co.uk/

The Villa coffee shop, Enscape Consulting and Sofasoy Candle Co are some of the ever-growing list of shops, businesses and organisations in Stonehaven signing a pledge to reject single-use plastics.

The move for a Plastic Free Stonehaven was first launched back in 2019 by a local member of Surfers Against Sewage - a national movement to clean up our seas. And since some 80% of all the plastic that ends up in our seas is initially disposed of on dry land, the surfers also spearheaded the Plastic Free Communities campaign.

Plastic Free Status is not about getting rid of all plastic. The campaigners say some is very useful and a necessity. Plastic drinking straws are, for some, a valuable aid. Plastic Free Communities is about getting everyone to work together to reduce the town's overall plastic footprint so we can eliminate the unnecessary single-use plastic by addressing the "throwaway" culture we seem to have created.

And today, Cllr Sarah Dickinson and Marion Montgomery of Paws on Plastic have picked up the gauntlet and are touring groups and schools spreading the message. Recent visits include the 1st Stonehaven Scout group, Stonehaven Youth Club and the Community Collective, where they set up an information stand.

Meanwhile, Godsman Graphics recently became the first business in Stonehaven to receive the Plastic Free Champion Award from Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Communities. Behind this accreditation were simple actions such as committing to stop buying bottled water in favour of a reusable bottle, presenting marketing materials in cardboard packaging rather than plastic boxes, and storing information online rather than in plastic files.

And of course Plastic Free Stonehaven, together with Paws on Plastic host monthly beach cleans that are proving hugely popular and well-supported. During their March outing, 78kgs of waste were removed from Stonehaven Beach. This included lots of textile fragments big and small, fishing tackle, the usual plastic at all levels of breakdown, an old shoe, an exhaust pipe, pieces of metal and more. All these big and little things really don't belong on the beach and are damaging the marine environment.

If you'd like to do your bit to help Stonehaven clean up its act, then you are welcome to join in on Saturday, 6th April for the next monthly clean with Paws on Plastic as part of Keep Scotland Beautiful's SpringCleanScotland campaign which runs from 15th March – 28th April.

You can read lots of news about Stonehaven at www.thebellman.co.uk/

WORLD MISSION

INDIA VILLAGE MINSTRIES

Suresh writes:

College students' Exams:

For the last two weeks, you have prayed for Sophie and other college students' exams. They have completed exams today. Sophie has written all her exams well. Pray that she gets good grades. Thanks for your prayers.

Gospel Convention:

I was privileged to speak for two days at a Gospel convention held in a nearby district. Each night around 500 people attended these meetings. God used me to share the Word in these meetings. Pray for the outcome of these meetings.

Help to Poor:

We have received requests to help some needy families towards their basic houses. We will be providing some building materials to help poor people to build their small houses. Pray that the Lord will provide the resources to bless them.

Medical help:

We are able to help some people who had surgeries in the recent months. We are so pleased to write and thank you for your faithfulness and support towards the ministries. We deeply appreciate your heart to stand with us as we serve those in need.

We continue to support the work of IVM through the "wee hoosies". You can pick one up at the church and at St. Bridget's. Once full, please return them to Allan Cairnduff.

Contact: Allan Cairnduff, 763 387

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. Confidentiality is always respected.

We also continue to send cards of support to anyone in church or the community who needs it.

If you require prayer support or wish a card to be sent to someone to lift their spirits, please **contact** one of the following members of the team:

Moirae McRae, Pat Logue, Ros Marshall, Hazel Paterson or Carol Balsillie.

PROPERTY REPORT

PROPERTY

I have been Property Convener for about 10 years. I rely on everyone who uses our buildings to let me know if there is something wrong, as well as the regular checks carried out by myself and others.

So, when I get your report, what next? First, go and check it out, same day if possible. Then contact the right tradesman. If I don't get an answer to my phone call, I'll send a text. I've learned how to get across the level of urgency to each of our regular electricians, plumbers and joiners, but I may still have to follow up in a day or so. For everything from toilets not flushing away to water coming through a leaky roof to a car smashing into our boundary wall, there's going to be a site visit, a price to be calculated and arrangements for access to do the job.

Recently, in the course of a few days, I called out an emergency weekend plumber for a blockage in the toilets at St Bridget's, I brought a plumber in twice to resolve problems in the South Church toilets. Flushed with success (!), I then managed to get our electrician to repair an extractor fan in the Manse on the Monday morning. I wish all of our callouts could be resolved as quickly as these were!

When the invoices come in, it's important to pay promptly, to maintain good relations. So I make a point of checking the repair and emailing the invoice to Les Anderson for payment. Les takes pride in paying within 24 hours. Building good teamwork between ourselves and the experts that we need to help us is one of my priorities.

David Macdonald, Property Convener

07751 195321

davidmacdonald153@gmail.com

MARCH QUIZ

Congratulations to our winner, Margaret Ogilvie. A prize is on its way. The answers are:

1 Hound, 2 Cats, 3 Name, 4 Light, 5 Circle, 6 Hot, 7 Street, 8 Scotch, 9 Court, 10 Minister, 11 Cocoa, 12 Black, 13 Ache, 14 Bran, 15 Marriage, 16 Atomic, 17 Tongue, 18 Chin, 19 Copper, 20 Away

APRIL QUIZ

Find the herbs and spices by putting in the missing vowels.
Please send entries to one of the Editorial Group by Thursday 25th April

A WEE SMILE

An old man and a 20-year-old are paired together at a golf tournament. They were playing a long par 5 that dog legs around some tall trees. As the 20-year-old set up his tee shot to hit onto the fairway the old man said, "when I was your age we used to hit over the trees - not around to the side."

So, the 20-year-old readjusted and tried to hit over the trees - but couldn't clear them and lost his ball. He tried again and lost that one too...Then the old man said "of course, when I was your age, the trees were only 6 foot tall."

A retired man started to volunteer to entertain patients in care homes and hospitals. He visited one hospital and brought along his portable keyboard.

After telling jokes and singing songs at patients' bedsides, he said farewell and, "I hope you get better." One elderly gentleman replied, "I hope you get better, too."

Peter said to an old man he met at the bus stop "Wow, so many scars. You must have had an adventurous life!"

"No," said the old man, "I just have a cat."

The church held a "Marriage Seminar" and the Priest asked Luigi, as his 50th wedding anniversary approached, to share some insight into how he managed to stay married to the same woman all these years. Luigi replied, "Well, I tried to treat her well and spend money on her. But the best thing I did was take her to Italy for our 20th anniversary."

The Priest said "Luigi, you are an inspiration to all husbands here today. Please tell the audience what you plan for your wife for your 50th anniversary." Luigi proudly replied "I'm gonna go and get her."

A little silver-haired lady called her neighbour and said, "Please come over here and help me. I have a killer jigsaw puzzle and I can't figure out how to get started."

Her neighbour asked, "What is it supposed to be when it's finished?"

The little silver haired lady said, "According to the picture on the box, it's a rooster."

Her neighbor decided to go over and help with the puzzle. She let him in and showed him where she had the puzzle spread all over the table.

He studied the pieces for a moment, then looked at the box, then turned to her and said, "First of all, no matter what we do, we're not going to be able to assemble these pieces into anything resembling a rooster." He took her hand and said, "Secondly, I want you to relax. Let's have a nice cup of tea" and then he said with a deep sigh ...

"Let's put all the Corn Flakes back in the box."

PRAYERS

YOU ARE OUR SUPPORT

In you, Lord, is our sure refuge
from all the turmoil than can beset us.
You are our firm support,
firmer than any castle,
the one who never lets us down,
whose support never crumbles,
the one to whom we can all turn
in time of trouble or distress.

For you wish to lead and guide us all,
and rescue us from all that assails us,
from all that takes us away
from the support of your love,
so that under your protection
we can stand firm
and in you find our true peace.

Amen. ©*The Prayer Trust*

OPEN OUR EYES

Open our eyes to the needs of others;
inspire in us words and actions
to comfort those who labour and are burdened.
Make us respond to their needs after the example of
Christ, and at his command.
And may Your Church stand as a living witness to
truth and freedom,
to peace and justice,
that all people may be raised up to a new hope.

Amen.

<p><i>SOME USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS</i></p>
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ROLL KEEPER	contact through Session Clerk	
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