

The Deeside Tattler

August and September 2024



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



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Lay Reader: Hugh Dawson, Tel. No 013398 87054

Note: DAY OFF. Vittoria is taking Friday as her normal day off,
and it would be helpful if we would respect that.

Midweek Communion

Tuesdays, 11.30am, 13th August, 10th September, 8th October, St Thomas'
Thursdays, 11.30am, 22nd August, 26th September, 31st October, St Kentigern's

Dates for the diary

28th July, 5pm, Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir, St Anne's, Kemnay
3rd - 11th August Ballater Victoria Week
3rd August, 6.30pm, Ballater Songs of Praise with the Salvation Army Band,
Glenmuick Church
6th August, 2.30-4pm, Afternoon Tea, St Kentigern's Church Hall
11th August, 6pm, Evening of Praise, St Thomas'
25th August, 3pm, Concert, St Thomas'
31st August, 12-2.30 Dee-Don Group meeting, St Mary's, Inverurie
5th September, 3.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry Meeting
14th September, 3pm, Concert, St Thomas'
14th September, 10-4, Aramaic Lord's Prayer Workshop, St Kentigern's Hall
14th September, 4pm, Organ Recital, St Anne's, Kemnay
17th September, 7.30pm, St Thomas' Vestry Meeting
23rd September, 7.30pm, Joint Vestry, St Kentigern's Hall
29th September, 9.30am Harvest Communion, St Kentigern's
11.15am, BCP communion, St Thomas'
1pm Harvest Meal, St Kentigern's
5th October, 11.15am, Harvest Service, St Thomas', followed by bring and share meal.
3rd November, AGM, St Thomas'
17th November, AGM, St Kentigern's

From the Editor: Our summers are often seen as quieter times for our churches, there are no major festivals, people are on holiday, and so on - So it is pleasing to be able to report on so many things happening in our churches in this Tattler. We have accounts, among other things, of the St Kentigern's Fayre, the Rhu-na-haven Open Day, the Aboyne After-School Club visit, Sung Evensong, as well as our usual soup lunches and Hot Chocolate Walks. Both churches are meantime working on their Five-Year Plans to ensure the church is always moving forwards - but they do seem to be thriving well in the meantime!

Our thanks for all the articles this time - do keep them coming. **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

Witches butter, chicken of the woods, hedgehog, charcoal burner, chanterelle, puffballs, slippery jacks, horseshoe mushrooms ... if those names sound familiar, then you are probably a fellow fungi aficionado. Witches butter, while having some nutritional benefit, tastes of very little, I've discovered, and is best added to stews and soups. Chicken of the woods is vaguely lemony and chicken-like. Hedgehog mushrooms are surprisingly meaty, ditto charcoal burners. Chanterelles are best served cooked with Masala and tarragon. Puffballs are wonderful when sliced and then fried, as they puff up under the heat. Slippery jacks grow in the grounds of both St Kentigern's and St Thomas', although the skins are not very digestible. Horseshoe mushrooms are not edible, but are very useful when camping as a tinder box. I am always astounded by the variety of fungi – and suitably cautious when harvesting them. I have discovered that to be safe, you also need to know the four or five similar mushrooms to the one you are looking for – and to be sensible – if you are unsure, don't risk eating it. The more you know, the more you need to know.

It is similar in some ways to faith. There are parts of faith – and learning about faith which may seem a little on the boring side. Yet they have nutritional value for our lives. Things like regular Bible study, for example. God does and will speak through his word, but it can also seem a bit bland and same-ish. Other parts of faith provide us with good solid food. For some this may be through worship, for others holy communion, for others fellowship. We need to work out what we need to feed our own personal faith.

There are some parts of faith which are spectacular and showy – some of the gifts of the Spirit can seem like this at times. There are some parts of faith which seem hidden, and others which are so prevalent you don't actually see them. It is similar to when you suddenly round a corner on a walk and a wonderful view opens out before you. You might know it's there, but until you experience it, you can't appreciate it. There are also times when we have to examine what we are adding to our faith. It is easy to see something similar to Christianity and think it is good; until you peel off the top layer and discover it is not. If you are clearing your mind to meditate, for example, you have to be careful about what you are allowing to fill your mind. Is it of God?

I have been reading a wonderful book which explores how trees in wood can be connected by mycorrhizal fungus. All interconnected, all supportive, in a symbiotic relationship. When the ground is cleared of all shrub and undergrowth prior to planting new trees, the new seedlings often do not thrive. In attempting to clear out the old, we can, if not careful, deprive the new of nutrients. Faith should be something which connects all parts of our lives, our relationships, our work. It should be something which is not restrictive, but which allows us to grow and become fully who God intends us to be.

With every blessing,

Vittoria

Five Year Plans.

Our vestries have been working on our five year plans as churches. There are various areas which our plans will cover: communication, worship, teaching, music, finance, maintenance, children and family work, health and safety and risk assessments, environmental matters, pastoral care and community relationships. Over the next year, it is proposed that we use the informal communion service on the fourth Sunday of the month to focus on these issues. We will be exploring how these issues connect with our faith, how they fit into our mission and ministry as churches, and how we can engage with them as congregations.

Midweek Communions

Tuesdays, 11.30am, 13th August, 10th September, 8th October, St Thomas'
Thursdays, 11.30am, 22nd August, 26th September, 31st October, St Kentigern's, Ballater

Soup Lunches

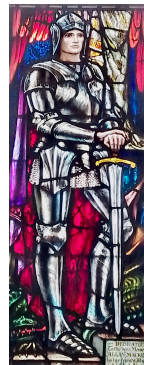
These follow on from our midweek communion services, although you are very welcome to come to one without the other.

St Thomas', Aboyne, 12-1pm, 13th August, 10th September, 8th October
St Kentigern's, Ballater, 12-1pm, 22nd August, 26th September, 31st October,

Hot Chocolate Walks

The hot chocolate walks are resuming – these are gentle strolls in the local area to explore a point of interest, with a stop for hot chocolate or a beverage of your choice in your flask. There are rarely big hills, bogs, or rivers to negotiate. If it is lashing down with rain, snowing a blizzard or blowing a hoolie, we stay at home. No endurance test is needed.

The forthcoming walks are on the 18th August, when we will be walking the Lumphanan Circular walk, and 15th September. Any suggestions for other walks, please let Vittoria know. Taking part in these walks is at your own risk. Please come suitably dressed with appropriate footwear.



Hot Chocolate Walk, June 2024

June's hot chocolate walk started at St Kentigern's and took us to the MacKenzie memorial seat, over at Pannanich Wells.

We were a small group of four this time - Sue and Warren and myself (Hilary) led by Vittoria, who explained the link to the church and the seat. A stained glass panel at the back of the church is dedicated to Sir Allan MacKenzie of Glenmuick, as is the seat.

The weather was fine, which this year is a bonus, so it was a very pleasant stroll at an easy pace, with chat ranging through any subject which came to mind, helped along by being out in nature.

Hilary Mutch

The Window

Photo taken by the old curling pond on our walk. Dragonflies and damselflies galore.



Environmental issues – where are we so far?

Both our churches are working towards the Ecocongregations Awards. We have an established Climate Change group at St Thomas', and a small working group at St Kentigern's. We are keen to expand these, so if anyone would like to join us, please speak to Carol Simmons at St Thomas' or to the Rector.

In the corner of St Thomas' church yard, at the junction of Ballater Road and Bridgeview Road we have been slowly developing a Quiet Garden. You will find a bench there to sit on and contemplate the world going by, flower boxes made for us by the Aboyne Men's Shed, and a bug hotel, made with the assistance of the Aboyne After School Club. We have recently added a hedgehog house, built by the children of the Aboyne After School Club.

We have been managing the triangle of woodland owned by the church as a haven for the local wildlife and for the population who use this space. We have bird boxes, and the red squirrel population can frequently be seen jumping from tree to tree. At the furthest point of the triangle, the Aboyne Gardens Group have planted some local species of fruit tree. And in the autumn, the grounds become a foragers paradise with different varieties of boletus, chanterelles and other fungi.

We are hoping to develop a forest bathing experience, or spending time in woodland, reflecting and just being, without the distraction of digital devices, family responsibilities and so on. And of course, St Thomas' also has a composting loo, much to the delight of the school children who come to visit.

St Kentigern's, Ballater, has a small area of land attached. Over the last few years we have developed part of this into a Quiet Space, a place to just sit and be. If you come in the spring time, you may get the chance to see waxwings eating some of the windfall apples from the ancient apple tree. With the help of Ballater CAN, we have planted local species and bulbs so that there is something all the year round. In the autumn we have various fungi in the grounds, from slippery jacks to charcoal burners. Tucked in amongst the flower beds you will spot wild strawberries, herbs such as lovage and oregano, and assorted salad vegetables.

If you explore the back, you will find our small potato patch. For the last few years the potato salad provided at our harvest meal has been grown in the grounds of the church. There are also wood piles which provides havens for wildlife such bugs and hedgehogs. At the front of the church, the large area of scrubby grass has been allowed to develop into a wildflower meadow. It is strimmed twice a year, and the rest of the time allowed to grow wild. The first year we had lots of long grass and a few flowers. Last year, the ground blossomed into a meadow, with buttercups, daisies, harebells, clover, dandelions, yellow rattle, mouse-ear hawkweed, fox-and-cubs, oxeye daisies, vetch, blue pimpernel, and yarrow, among other plants. We await with interest what will emerge this year.

Vittoria Hancock

News from Aboyne-Dinnet Church

It is great news, that Aboyne-Dinnet Church will have a new minister by the time the Tattler will be in circulation. His induction takes place on Thursday, 18th July.

Christa says: 'He is called Rev Sharmann Maromo. He is 38 years old and married to Annamarry. They have two primary school-aged children, Bliss (aged 5), and Benjamin (8 years old). and they will live in the Manse at 49 Charlton Crescent, Aboyne. The Maromo family have come to the Church of Scotland a year and a half ago from the Reformed Church of Zimbabwe where he had served two large congregations for over 6 years. He has a professional background in the Revenue Service and has degrees in both Arts and Theology. Prior to coming to us he has been the Assistant Minister at Cults Parish Church. We are told he loves being with people and is sure that it will not be long before you will have an opportunity to meet him.'



About eight of us from St Thomas's joined the Induction service, with Vittoria present as 'Associated with the Presbytery', and taking part in Sharmann's welcome to the parish.

It was an inspiring service, with the church packed, and full-hearted singing of the hymns, not all of which I knew, but enjoyed singing with the crowd. There were very serious parts, as Sharmann was asked formal questions about his beliefs, and his willingness to serve his congregation. Those of us who were Episcopalians were glad to join in the very similar Creed to our own, affirming that we all worship the same God, just in some different ways. There were also more lighthearted moments, it was a cheerful and happy occasion, that I was glad to be part of.



On a personal note - whoever is responsible for the hearing system deserves a medal! The loop system was working throughout, and very much appreciated.

Naturally, the events ended with refreshments - incredibly, for all. Most streamed into the Hall, some of us went to the overflow tent in the grounds, where we were treated with the same superb food and attention.

Sheila Maxwell

Other news from Christa: we will again have a **gazebo at the Aboyne Games** and look forward to meeting as many people as possible. Please come and say 'hello'.

Our series of **Ladies Breakfast and Talk** will start again on Saturday, 7th September, at 10am We have a local speaker, known as 'The Man in the Blue Blazer'. Stuart Nelson will talk about 'The Road to Enlightenment' or a Japanese pilgrimage 'of *Shikoku's 88 Temples*'. As usual, the venue for the breakfast will be our church hall on Huntly Road and tickets need to be secured prior to the event by contacting Christa on 86562 or by sending her an email (christa.markham@btinternet.com)

The Guild is planning an evening meeting in the Church Hall on Thursday, 26th September, at 7pm. The theme is *Relaxation Therapy*, and entry will be by donation.



Finance Report from St Thomas' Treasurer

Several people have expressed an interest in understanding our financial situation better so here goes....

May – we received £2827.00 and spent £3629.68

June – we received £1851.00 and spent £2716.00

What is left out of this? – Well it doesn't include Gift Aid income yet, which might be £632 for May and £325 for June which helps a bit with the deficit.

What does this tell us? Each month we have our regular outgoings – Clergy costs, electricity, insurance, quota BUT each month, both income and expenditure vary...

Income – could be a funeral or baptism donation or a wedding cost or random donations

Expenditure – could be cost of verger, altar linen cleaning, flowers, new projects/maintenance.

Warren and the investment team are doing great things with our investments, and as a result we can cope with the ups and downs in the current account, but it's a bit touch and go.

What action is needed? Firstly - many thanks to regular financial contributors. We continue as a church to develop, improve the building and grounds and spread the Good News, but we need to balance the books as well. Please pray about this and have a think about how you could help. I intend to give some other insights over the next few Tattlers.

Sue Burgess

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Next major maintenance works on St Thomas's Church

All of the outside walls have become stained (black) and have a lot of moss growth, which all needs to be cleaned off with high pressure water jetting. Then all the pointing needs to be thoroughly checked and damaged areas have to be ground out and repointed to ensure that wind driven rain will not leak inside. This work will start in September and will take 2 to 3 weeks. The total estimated cost of this work, including 10% contingency is £12,716. We have 50% of this cost covered by a successful grant application to the Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Buildings Grants Fund. So that leaves us with 50%, £6,358, to be funded by ourselves or other donations. So far we have one pledge of £2,000. If anyone would like to make a donation to help fund this essential work, please contact Vittoria or our Treasurer, Sue Burgess.

Warren Burgess Church Warden - Property Maintenance

Aramaic Lord's Prayer Workshop

Saturday 14th September 10am-4pm

at St Kentigern's Church, Ballater



Most who attend church regularly will be able to recite the Lord's Prayer, and many find the repetition of this very familiar prayer to be comforting. Indeed, understood properly, it is not just a prayer to recite, but a framework for all prayer as well.

Translation, however, is always a problem, because words in one language often don't have an exact equivalence in another language. Much of the meaning of words can be lost in translation. And languages also evolve and the meanings can change over time. For example, the word temptation conveys a different meaning to us today than it meant at the time when the King James version was being translated. So, in the more up to date version we pray, "Do not bring us to the time of trial", instead of "Lead us not into temptation."

But we have to realise that the Lord's Prayer that we recite in church Sunday by Sunday is not just a translation from the Greek, it is a translation of a translation. For, Jesus originally taught this prayer to his disciples in his native Aramaic language. The words and grammar of the Greek language in which the New Testament was written are very precise. The Aramaic language that Jesus spoke is much more fluid. Words, and the sounds that they consist of can convey many layers of meaning. Each sound represented by a particular letter carries a certain quality of vibrational energy. When these sounds were combined to form words it is much more like creating a piece of jazz music than composing a piece of baroque music.

I was privileged to be one of around twenty people from around the world who met for a long weekend four times a year for four years to learn what the inner essence words of many sacred texts of the ancient Middle East meant, including the Aramaic words of Jesus in the gospels. Our teacher, Neil Douglas-Klotz, had studied the ancient languages of the Near East and how to interpret their sacred texts. However, he is also a mystic. So, he also taught us how to connected with the vibrational energy of the root sounds through chanting and dance. For, Neil believes, it is most likely that Jesus would have taught his disciples in this way. Though we do not have the original, the chants Neil composed and movements he choreographed are an inspired recreation of that form of teaching.

Hence, I am offering a day's workshop on the Aramaic Lord's Prayer on Saturday 14th September during which participants will join me in learning to chant and dance and meditate on these most precious of prayers so that we can experience them afresh together. It will be based on Neil's book, 'Prayers of the Cosmos'. Places are limited, so early booking is advised. Please let Vittoria know if you would like to attend. Refreshments will be available and there will be a break for lunch, for which you can either bring a packed lunch or go to one of the many local cafés and restaurants. Registration from 9.30am for a 10am start. [A donation of between £10 and £20, or whatever you can afford, on the day will help towards the cost of the day and towards the upkeep of the church.]

Ken Webb



...well you cannot fault the efficacy of the new 'Planned Giving' scheme...

Rhu-na-Haven Open garden

Marcus and Sabrina opened their walled garden at Rhu-na-Haven again earlier this month, in aid of Church funds, with a ceremony to mark the renovation of the main greenhouse. Peter Cameron from Tarland cut the ribbon as he and his firm had carried out the re-glazing of the building, using 96 kilograms of putty in the process, Dave Rouse painted the outside, grandson Jozef Pawlukiewicz the ironwork of the staging, while Marcus turned joiner for a few days and completed the staging itself.



It is a real joy to have the B listed building in working order again and it has been already put to full use growing plants for the Church sale, while in the eastern section two nectarine trees have been planted that were donated to Marcus and Sabrina by the Dinnet



Estate Staff in celebration of their Diamond Wedding anniversary last year.

Happily the day itself remained dry throughout, and visitors were able to view a very colourful garden with perennial borders, roses, sweet peas and a wide variety of vegetables, fruit trees and bushes with heavy crops.

Marcus Humphrey



Buffet of Foraged Food

During the Ballater Walking Festival, St Kentigern's hosted a Buffet of Foraged Foods.



Walkers scoured the hedgerows and forest trails and learned all about Edible and Medicinal produce that grow literally on our doorstep. Medicinal Herbalist Natasha Lloyd and Aberdeen Ranger Helen Rowe, escorted our walkers on an enlightening journey.

The walkers finished in the St Kentigern's Hall where they were invited to sample some tasty fayre.

Samples included, nettle soup, blueberry vinegar, wild raspberry conserve, dandelion honey, wild garlic pesto and wild rhubarb chutney. Also several cordials and alcoholic beverages were tasted.

A favourite was 'Sting and Tonic' a gin base flavoured with a nettle botanic! The afternoon was enjoyed by all!

Carole Nicoll

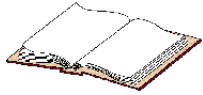


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The refurbished St Kentigern's Sign

Very many thanks to Julia and David Woodman for restoring the Scottish Episcopal Church sign outside St. Kentigern's. It is very much appreciated.



Readings for August and September, 2024

4th August Trinity 10 <i>Transfiguration</i>	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 2 Peter 1:16-19 Luke 9:28-36	Sabine Muir	Jill Binns
11th August Trinity 11	1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25- 5:2 John 6:35, 41-51	Margaret Jaffray	Anne Harper
18th August Trinity 12	Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58	Anne Richardson	Isabel Wilson
25th August Trinity 13	1 Chronicles 29:1-22 2 Corinthians 9:1-7 Mark 12:41-44	Sabrina Humphrey	Meg White
1st September Trinity 14	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23	Susan Smith	Rider Family
8th September Trinity 15	Isaiah 35:4-7a James 2:1-10, 14-17 Mark 7:24-37	Marcus Humphrey	Isabel Wilson
15th September Trinity 16	Isaiah 50:4-9a James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38	Hilary Mutch	Jill Binns
22nd September Trinity 17	Genesis 8:20-22; 9:12-17 Revelation 22:1-5 Matthew 28:1-10	Stanley Ewen	Helen Webb
29th September Trinity 18 <i>Michaelmas</i>	Genesis 28:10-7 Revelation 12:7-12 John 1: 47-51	Anne Richardson (Harvest)	Michael Bruce
HARVEST READINGS	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19		

CHURCH SERVICES AT BALLATER AND ABOYNE

	<u>St. Kentigern's, 9.30am</u>	<u>St. Thomas's, 11.15am</u>
1st Sunday	Morning Worship	Morning Worship
2nd Sunday	Holy Communion 1982	Holy Communion 1982
3rd Sunday	Holy Communion 1970	Holy Communion 1970
4th Sunday	Holy Communion 1982	Family Communion
5th Sunday	Morning Prayer	Morning Prayer

Sunday Club St. Kentigern's, Ballater

Children are welcome to attend any Sunday Service, and families are invited to use the materials in the Hall if so required.

The **St Kentigern's Sunday Club** normally meets on the **third Sunday of every month at 9.30am** in the Church Hall. The children are brought back into Church to join their families during the Offertory Hymn.

These Services will be advertised when they have been resumed.
Anne R

Young Church at St. Thomas's

Children are welcome at all the services at St Thomas's. The children's corner contains books, colouring materials and toys for small children, so do make use of them.

Morning Worship at St.Thomas's *(on the first Sunday of the month)*

This is normally a non-Communion Service, not specifically for children, but they are of course especially welcome.

The next services are:

4th August - Changing

1st September - Inside out

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Praise the Lord, my soul.

He makes springs pour water into the ravines;
it flows between the mountains.

They give water to all the beasts of the field;
the wild donkeys quench their thirst.

The birds of the sky nest by the waters;
they sing among the branches.

He waters the mountains from his upper chambers;
the land is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

He makes grass grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to cultivate—
bringing forth food from the earth:

wine that gladdens human hearts,
oil to make their faces shine,
and bread that sustains their hearts.

From Psalm 104

From the Bible for the young and not so young

The Healing of Jairus's Daughter



We know of the story of the healing of Jairus's daughter, don't we? So how did it come about? It happened during a very busy time in Jesus's ministry, well described in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. In Luke's gospel (*ch 8*) we are told that Jesus visited towns and villages, bringing the good news of the Kingdom of God., and healing the sick. He went with his

twelve disciples, and they were supported by several women, using their own means to provide for them all. (No equality of the sexes in those days!) They were followed by great crowds, so large that on one occasion his mother tried to get to him and failed. And Jesus let it be known that the people before him were his family.

They sometimes went out by boat to get away from the crowds and be alone for a bit. Jesus was returning from one of these trips, and found a huge crowd waiting for him, and needing his attention. And in the middle of all this, Jairus, ruler of the Synagogue, turned up in a great state, telling Jesus that his only daughter, aged 12 years, was dying, and begging him to come to his house.

Jesus turned and started to follow him, when he was interrupted by a woman who touched his garment. She knew she was healed, he felt power going from him, and immediately questioned who had touched him. What a question! There were people all around him. But he knew this was something special, and finally the woman came forward to confess. And Jesus turned to face her in the middle of the crowd, and he told her that her faith had made her whole. This was of course basic to his whole Ministry.

While all this was happening, a man came from the ruler's house to say his daughter had died, and not to trouble Jesus any more. But Jesus would have none of it, he told them just to believe, and all would be well. So he went on to the house, but then kept the crowds out, just going in with his closest disciples, Peter, James and John, along with the child's parents.

There was some scene in the house, with all who were with the child weeping and wailing at her death. Jesus was calm, he simply said to them that she was not dead but sleeping, and they all just laughed at him! Jesus paid no attention, he took the child's hand, and called out, 'Child, arise!' And her spirit returned, and amazingly, she got up at once. Ever practical, Jesus told her parents to give her something to eat.

Everyone was astonished at all this. Jesus told them not to tell anyone what had happened - but of course someone did. The story became one of the most well-known of the miracles of Jesus, and is still an inspiration for us today.

Helen's adopted little cat

I came to live in Scotland on 30th November 2023, I just wanted room to breathe, and be myself. I did not want for instance the responsibility of a cat! In January 2024 we had snow - just bliss in the silence it brings.



One day I noticed some paw prints in the snow - and then I spotted a little dark cat hidden in the shadows. I left a little food.

Then it came back the next day - and so it continued to the point when I started to buy cat food for it. The cat wouldn't come near but I was happy about that, and fed her in the shed.



One day early, she ran out after I put food down, and I thought, 'she's not hungry.' But then she jumped on top of the wall, ran to me and rubbed her little head as I bowed mine. And she ran back and ate. I was hooked!



Not a lap cat. Not a girl either, although looks can be deceiving as he is so pretty .

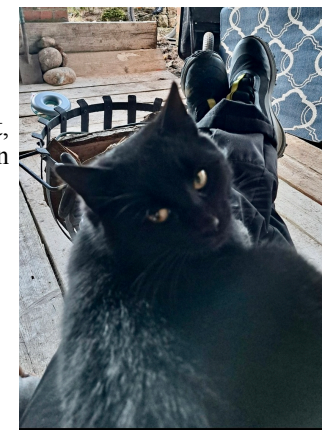


I bought him a toy springy mouse, it took him a week to play with it, then he promptly dragged it off, broke it and came back and sat on my lap. So utterly entertaining.

We sit together a lot, and when I wasn't 100% he jumped up and slept on my face.

So I love him, he loves me.
What will be will be. Amen.

Helen Webb



Expectations from Overseas projects

It's quite a challenge starting a new project overseas. In my early days it was to teach practical maintenance of plant and machinery to local workers who had been drawn in during construction work. This sometimes created situations which had the potential to create damage as happened in Nigeria 60 years ago.

Local villagers had been trained to join electrical cables and then employed as electricians. The company had then been generous in providing breeze-block houses with wiring to an electric light. Mix the two and we soon had the realization that a regular wage enabled purchase of radios and cookers which could now be wired in. Switchboards and fuses now proved inadequate. In their case the Biafran war settled everything.

In later years the problems were more obvious. The Manila Water Supply project required a rapid expansion of house water connections from 5000 to 5 million (see photos) so I proposed an outdoor training centre running weekly practical courses for workers and foreman to properly address the problems. This ran successfully for several years until the city caught up with itself. That centre is now overgrown as the jungle creeps back.



Spaghetti connections



Children making the most of 'free' water



Emerging from sewer

Other outcomes have been decided by the client on site. When I arrived in Malaysia with Thames Water I was immediately taken off the team to work with the JKR (Min of Public Works) HQ on Instructor training and management of several previously non-constructed World Bank training centres, none of which had anything to do with the Thames Water project. The client is always right.

Other countries don't really appreciate your presence at all and prefer to stick to their old ways, so one is there at the bequest of an international bank with little to contribute. One occasion I will never forget took place in Bali on a scorching afternoon in a stuffy hall with fans beating the hot air. I was just dozing off in the conditions listening to a mix of Indonesian and English when I heard the chairman say "Mr Sowrey, is there anything you would like to comment?". Such is life overseas!

Peter Sowrey

Sung Evensong for the Feast of St Thomas's



On June 30th, Vittoria and her musical team organised a Sung Evensong for St Thomas' Day and I was a delighted guest.

What is a Sung Evensong? After the Introduction, General Confession and Absolution as laid down in the Prayer Book, the Psalm appointed for the evening was sung in harmony by the choir. The Magnificat (my soul doth magnify the Lord) and Nunc Dimittis (Lord, thou lettest me depart in peace) were also sung, and we were treated to a musical postlude. The choir gave a lovely and sincere performance – I expected no less. Many choir members, and their leader, are experienced musicians.

Vittoria led our reflections on St Thomas himself. She told us what appears in the Bible, and two incidents stand out. In John 14 v 4 Jesus said 'Whither I go, ye know, and the way ye know' Thomas, somewhat literally minded, asks 'We know not whither thou goest. How can we know the way?' To this, Jesus replies, to him and to us all, 'I AM the Way, the Truth and the Light!'

The other lesson that Thomas teaches us is that it is good to doubt as long as you can admit when you are wrong. And what is the matter with a bit of honest doubt? A questioning attitude has helped generations on the road. Otherwise we might still believe with the ancient Greeks that the sun goes round the world!

Thomas said, on hearing that the risen Christ had appeared to the disciples, 'I shall not believe UNLESS.....' (John 20 v25) Once shown satisfactory proof, he changed his mind and accepted that he was face-to-face with the living Christ. He dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel and was, according to tradition, willing to die for that belief.

Although it is not mentioned in the New Testament, St Thomas is traditionally seen as the Apostle for eastern Asia, arriving in southern India in 52 AD. After a good many years of travel and preaching, tradition had him martyred on 3rd July, meeting his death with a spear-thrust. There is definitely a strong link between Thomas the Apostle, India and Sri Lanka. A substantial proportion of Christian places of worship were dedicated to St Thomas and it is a popular name among Indian Christians.

It was a beautiful, peaceful service, not well attended, but much appreciated by those who came, both choir and congregation. The evening was rounded off with light refreshments organised by Lesley, and a time of sharing and fellowship.

Why St Thomas's?

During the service, Anne Harper explained why they chose to dedicate the Aboyne church to St Thomas. Until the 1900s, there was no Episcopal place of worship. The Coats family of Glentanar directed efforts to build a church and subscribed most generously; they were asked to suggest a name. Two Thomases sprang to mind, Thomas Glen Coats and his grandson Thomas Hayward Coats. The church was duly dedicated to St Thomas.

In the old days when most people couldn't read, saints were identified by props or symbols. St Thomas is often pictured with a spear, symbol of his martyrdom, a scroll or, as he is the patron saint of architects, the model of a building. He sometimes holds a book, the sign of a writer.

Sarah Wright

St Kentigern's Summer Fayre

The Summer Fayre held on the 20th July was very well attended. Locals and visitors browsed the stalls and enjoyed a cup of tea and home bakes.

The total raised was £2,366.55, about £400 up on last December's Fayre, which is a really good effort.



We had a plant stall, which did very well. Some of the plants were donated by Birkhall and Balmoral. We also had some beautiful geraniums, grown by Marcus and Sabrina.



Mary Nairn, collecting Logie's prize of the Queen's gift

The winner of the Queen's Gift was Logie Martin, the grandson of Mary Nairn. Well done!



This amazing display of bottles was cleared out before the end of the sale!

Thanks to all whose hard work made this such a success - and thanks to all who came to support and enjoy the occasion.

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Afternoon Tea at St Kentigern's

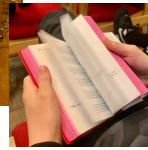
Our next event will be an Afternoon tea during Ballater Victoria Week on Tuesday 6th August from 2.30 – 4pm.

We will have our scarecrow on display, called Munching Mike, who will happily munch your recyclable goods. Do come and join us!

Aboyne After-School Club



Font - we played a game where I named parts of the church and the children had to point where they were - this was the font, and Vittoria explained that we don't fill the whole bowl, just this little bowl.



Hymn book - they were fascinated by the hymn number board, so we asked some to find the hymn in the book, and we sang the first verse



Initial in cress - this was great fun - Anne gave each child a template of their initial on top of wet paper towel and they put seeds over it to take away and see their

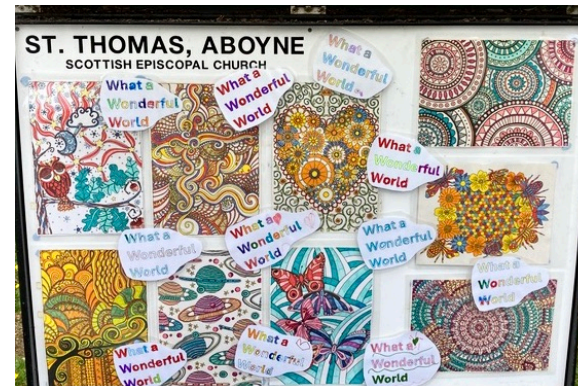


Bug box still being used.

Lots of seeds and fruit - Anne explained how many different seeds and fruit there are and she had lots of examples, including nutmeg



Hedgehog house - a label has been added since the photo to say "hedgehog house" so the hedgehogs know they are



The green notice-board transformed!

The children coloured in the "what a wonderful world" labels to add to my colouring sheets - some people knit, or sew or read books to relax - I colour in interesting sheets and patterns. **Sue**

Findhorn

I have just spent a lovely time in my caravan at Findhorn Sands Caravan Site with our dog Mollie, a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, whose favourite spot is sitting looking out the caravan window.



It is a lovely place to stay with lots of interesting things to do like taking a trip in a motor boat and visiting Hopeman and Burghead along the coast seeing seals or dolphins. One can take a trip across to Culbin sands have a picnic at the other side of the estuary. Watching boats and yachts coming in and out of the harbour.



There's a museum and icehouse where they used to store salmon before being sent south. A bakery, shop and post office, plenty of places for coffee and ice cream. Beautiful meals at the Crown & Anchor, Kimberley Inn, Captain's Table, and The Bakehouse Market. There is also the Findhorn Foundation cafe in walking distance.

The steps down to the beach have been rebuilt with wooden walk ways to accommodate wheel chairs.

I was sitting eating my supper at the Crown & Anchor Hotel and couldn't

resist taking a photo of the village hall at the harbour where the voting was taking place. In the distance you can see the well known Culbin Sands.

Eileen A. Davies

Here's myself with Mollie gazing out to sea.



My painting in watercolour is my favourite view from Findhorn.



Congratulations and Commiserations

Baptisms

The baptism of Madison McMenemy took place at St Thomas' in June.
Please pray for her and her family at this new stage in her journey of faith.

Deaths

The funeral of Joan Jagers took place at Tullich in June
May she rest in peace and rise in glory.
Please pray for her family and friends at this time.

Congratulations

Congratulations and welcome to the **Rev Sharmann Maromo** and family on their move to Aboyne and to serve in the Aboyne Dinnet Church and St Moluag's, Tarland.

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Memories

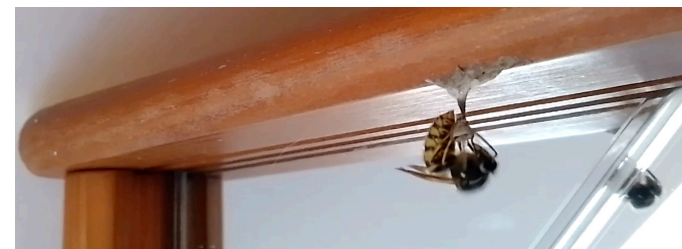
Memories can bring good and bad things back. This story does both. Father and I had a Jewish friend, we walked home together each day from church. The friend had a very special car, it really was a sight to see at that time (very beginning of war) The car was a Spanish Hispaniola, bright yellow tan leather and a folding roof. It really was some car. The owner had a crazy idea, he wanted to get the car into bits and bury them all over the place. His idea was hopefully he could find all the bits and clean them all up and he would be a rich and happy man. It did not work like that, he had buried the bits, but then as he was a Jew, he and his family were taken to the Isle of Man and separated till the end of war. Then after the war he could not remember where he had buried his bits of beloved car. He did find some but not enough. So maybe there are still some to find. I often wonder what happened to them and who bought the land. The plot was called Cold Harbour Farm and still has that name. The owners are not approachable. There was a stream nearby, but it got fenced off. Nobody I knew from that time is still alive. So we know nothing, - just memories.

Daphne Laing

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Nature at work!

A busy wasp building a beautiful nest - unfortunately on the cabinet in my shower room! **Sheila**



WEB-SITES

St Thomas's Web-site has been transferred and upgraded. It has also been possible to return the photos in the Tattler to their original colour. The link is <http://www.stthomasaboynne.org>

If you want to get in touch, please email: stthomasaboynne@gmail.com

St Kentigern's Web-site is: stkentigernsballater.aodiocese.org.uk

Some services are recorded at St Thomas's. The Youtube Link is: <https://www.youtube.com/@st.thomaschurchaboynne>

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Pastoral Cards for the sick or bereaved

We have a small selection of very helpful pastoral cards, which are suitable to send from the Church to anyone who is sick, going into hospital, or bereaved. They include appropriate readings and prayers. Recipients have commented on the encouragement and comfort these cards have brought them.

If you would like a pastoral card sent to a friend from:

St Thomas's, Aboynne
Please contact Meg White
Tel 013398 80034

St Kentigern's, Ballater
Please contact Vittoria Hancock
Tel. No. 013397 55919

Prayer Chain Ministry

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

Colossians Ch 4 v2

A small group meets for prayer as requested. The group prays for anyone who requires it, which may be for healing, guidance, strength in a difficult situation or for thanksgiving. Prayer can be for yourself or for someone else (with their permission). Confidentiality is maintained at all times.

The group members are eager to be contacted at any time for prayer, visitation or simply for a listening and sympathetic ear.

Please consider joining us in the uplifting and essential ministry of prayer. We really need as many as possible to support our Prayer Group.

Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock

Important

The Tattler needs you!

Please send news, articles, stories, fillers, or anything else you can think of to enrich the Tattler. It can only be as good as you make it!

The next Edition is starting now. Please give or send all contributions to the Editor, or to Anne Richardson at Ballater, by September 17th

CONTACTS :

	ST. KENTIGERN'S
Treasurer	Marcus Humphrey
Secretary	Sabine Muir
Lay Representative	Hilary Mutch
Vestry Members	Sabrina Humphrey Margaret Jaffray Sabine Muir Anne Richardson Susan Smith
Sacristan	Hilary Mutch
Organist	Stanley Ewen
Youth Leader	Anne Richardson
Child Protection Officer	Anne Richardson
Chalice Bearers	Roger Searle, Marcus Humphrey, Susan Smith, Douglas Mutch, Sabine Muir

ST. THOMAS'S

Secretary	Anne Harper
Treasurer	Sue Burgess
Lay representative	Anne Harper
Vestry Members	Warren Burgess Sheila Maxwell Katherine Rider Carol Simmons Lesley Thomas
Organist and Publicity	Sheila Maxwell
Child Protection Officer	Lesley Thomas
Sacristans	Carol Simmons, Jo Elson, Lesley Thomas
Chalice Bearers	Warren Burgess, Peter Sowrey, Lara Elson Andrew Wilson, Sue Burgess
Flowers	Jill Binns
People's Warden (Maintenance Officer)	Warren Burgess
Patron	Michael Bruce

ST. NINIAN'S

Dr Hugh Dawson:	Lay Reader, Treasurer, Organist
Astrid Cheyne:	Flowers
Anne Richardson	Child Protection Officer

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Susan Smith, Marie Wilde, Sue Burgess