

The Deeside Tattler

October and November 2024



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



Rector: Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock
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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, St Thomas', 11.30am, 8th October, 12th November
Thursdays, St Kentigern's, 11.30am, 31st October, 21st November

Dates for the diary

29th September, 9.30am Harvest Communion, St Kentigern's
11.15am, Holy Communion, Book of Common Prayer, St Thomas'
1pm Bring and share Harvest Meal, St Kentigern's
30th September, 7pm, Ordination of Godwin Chimara, St John's, Aberdeen
3rd October, 7pm, Ordination of Ferdinand, St Andrew's, Alford
6th October, 11.15am, Harvest Festival at St Thomas',
followed by bring and share harvest lunch.
12th October, Wedding of Dr Stanley Ewen and Mrs Margaret Jaffray, St Kentigern's
13th October, No service in either church. 11.30am, Ecumenical Service at **Crathie**
3rd November, 9.30am Baptism, St Kentigern's
11.15am AGM St Thomas'
3.30pm, Sung Evensong, St Thomas'
7th November, 3.30pm, St Kentigern's Vestry meeting
10th November, Remembrance Sunday – no service in either church
13th November, 7.30pm, St Thomas' 5-year planning meeting, at Carol Simmons
17th November, 9.30am, AGM St Kentigern's
1st December, Advent Sunday
5th December, Diocesan Standing Committee meeting.

From the Editor: During September, our church has been celebrating Creationtide, and as we come into autumn, it is a time to wonder at the marvels of our world in all its beauty, and in all its many forms and sizes. We have included a few photos of some of them, all so different, but all a cause for glorying God's creation. Note that they will look even better in colour, when our magazine comes in the web-site shortly. The link is <http://www.stthomasaboyne.org>

In November we hold our yearly Remembrance Services, and we have three articles with different aspects of that dreadful time being recalled. And we have more about some of our current activities - it is always good to know what is going on in our churches and elsewhere. Our thanks as always to those who have contributed, and do keep them coming. It is good to share our experiences and thoughts. **Ed**

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From the Rector,
Rev'd Canon Vittoria Hancock



Dear Friends,

I was looking at the climbing rose which grows up the side of the Rectory. Despite having been cut back twice so far this year, it has already reached the heights of the guttering and needs cutting back yet again. This is a very thorny rose which has small pink flowers, quite delicately scented. It's no good picking them for in the house, as they just wilt and die. So I enjoy the scent as I walk around that corner of the house. Does anyone remember the old nursery rhyme 'Ring a ring a roses, a pocket full of posies, a'tishoo, a'tishoo, we all fall down'? I had that going round in my head the other day as I sniffed one of the roses. It got me thinking about the use of 'Bless you'. Stay with me, there is a connection.

One of my old flames used to say that if you forgot to say bless you when someone sneezed you killed the fairy – apparently in his culture, fairies are born when you sneeze. That was a new one for me, I admit. But it's embedded in our psyche somehow -when someone sneezes you say bless you. Short for 'May God bless you'. In the context of sneezes, it is a prayer for protection – that you might not get a cold or infection. But what does 'bless you' actually mean? What do we mean by it? The dictionary tells me it is to ask for God's help or protection for someone, or to make someone or something holy. In the Bible, blessings are words that can transform lives. They were important things. They had an impact on the future. Blessing is an expression of a desire that things will change, be transformed in that person's life, that good will come. A blessing is a desire that God will walk alongside that person in their daily life, guiding them and helping them. There is another part of this. Blessing is not just about words - or it shouldn't be. It also involves action. If I say 'God bless you', I am asking God to bless you, to help you, to protect you, but I am also stating my willingness to help God

in this endeavour. If you are hungry and I say 'God bless you' without also finding food for you to eat, they are empty words. If you are crying, distraught, and I say 'God bless you' without attempting to comfort you, they are empty words. Our blessings of others around us must come with actions that match.

But what about objects? At Christmas, we bless the crib. At baptisms, we bless the water. We bless candles, and bread and wine. We bless houses. After the flooding in 2015, as people moved back into homes and businesses, I offered to bless the places. What are we doing? We are setting the object, the place, aside for God. For an object, we are asking that it might be symbol of God doing something. So when we bless the crib, we are asking that all those who see it might be drawn to reflect upon the story of Christmas. When we bless the water at baptism, we are asking that the water become a symbol of death and new birth in Christ. When I bless bread and wine, I am asking that they become a celebration, a memorial, of the death and resurrection of Christ. That they are transformed into something other, something holy, set apart. When we bless our houses, homes, or places of work, we are inviting God to come with his presence into that place and give it the blessing of peace; of joy; of whatever is needful in that time and place.

Blessing is an act of transformation, of object, place or person. When we are blessed, God is working in our lives to transform us. It isn't just so that we will be happier. We are blessed so that we can bless others. And sometimes the blessing comes from helping others. Blessing carries with it a responsibility. At the end of our worship, the words of blessing are usually followed by an instruction, a calling. We are sent out into the world to love and serve the Lord. I sometimes use the words of dismissal 'Our worship is ended – our service now begins. Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord'. As we are blessed, so we are called to bless as we serve.

With every blessing,
Vittoria

Remembrance Sunday, 10th November - No service in either church

Ballater – there will be an act of Remembrance at the memorial at 10.45, followed by a service in Glenmuick Church.

Aboyne – there will be a service in the Victory Hall at 10am, followed by an act of remembrance at the memorial at 11am.

Special Ecumenical Service, both our congregations are invited

On Sunday 13th October, at the suggestion of King Charles, there will be an **Ecumenical Service at Crathie Church** for all the churches in Upper Deeside, at 11.30am. So there will be **no services** at St Kentigern's or St Thomas's that day.

As His Majesty the King will be present, everyone should be in place at Crathie Kirk 20-30 minutes before the service. Vittoria will need to give rough numbers of those coming, and we hope to arrange for car-sharing from both the churches.

Soup Lunches will take place at 12 noon - 1.00pm, after midweek Communion

St Thomas', 11.30am, 8th October, 12th November

St Kentigern's, 11.30am, 31st October, 21st November

These lunches are free to anyone who wishes to attend, from the churches and the wider community. They are designed to be a warm space to spend time with each other, and with those who you might not know so well. At least one of the soups is usually vegetarian, gluten free and dairy free. If you have any special dietary requirements, please let Vittoria know. You are welcome to come to the lunch without coming to the service, although you are always welcome to either.

Celebrating 30 years of Fairtrade

As churches, we are committed to the policy of Fairtrade. This means that when possible, our tea, coffee and other refreshments should be sourced from brands which carry the fairtrade symbol. But what does fairtrade mean?

Fairtrade works with farmers and workers in more than 1,900 producer organisations, across 68 countries, so they can improve their living standards, invest in their communities and businesses, and protect our shared environment. They work with farmers and workers, supply chain partners, brands, retailers, shoppers, schools, government – to pay fair prices and uphold fair production standards and practices. Fair prices provide an immediate lifeline for farmers and workers struggling with low incomes and disadvantaged by global trade.

Fairtrade has been shown to increase standards of living and reduce risk and vulnerability for farmers and workers. The Fairtrade Minimum Price provides a safety net for farmers which can mean they are less vulnerable to price volatility. In turn, this can mean a better cash flow, greater access to credit and the ability to save more easily. Food security is linked closely to economic growth, stable incomes and reduced risk and vulnerability. A better income means more money to buy food and the ability to invest in generating other food sources, such as growing new crops.

Many products in our supermarkets and shops now carry the fairtrade logo, from tea and coffee to chocolate, flowers, bananas, and clothing. Buying fairtrade products is a way to support small businesses and farmers overseas, helping to build fairness and equality for all.

Vittoria Hancock

Generous giving

Following Vittoria’s excellent sermon on giving last month, here’s my latest delve into funding our church activities. These figures apply to St Thomas but may be worth members of St Kentigern’s considering as well.

We get huge spiritual uplift from worshipping together in church and being part of the wider community and the word stewardship does not only apply to money – it can mean contributing your time and skills, but we need to have the funds to continue all that wonderful fellowship.

I’ve just successfully applied to Gift Aid for the last year and that brings into focus how generous people are, for which many thanks. Our average cash collection is about £50-£60, but this varies considerably over the year.

However, to be able to budget for church activities regular giving is best and most people have set up bank standing orders. We are also very fortunate that we get individual donations for some of our bigger projects.

Looking back over the figures for last year for regular monthly giving (before Gift Aid is added), we have

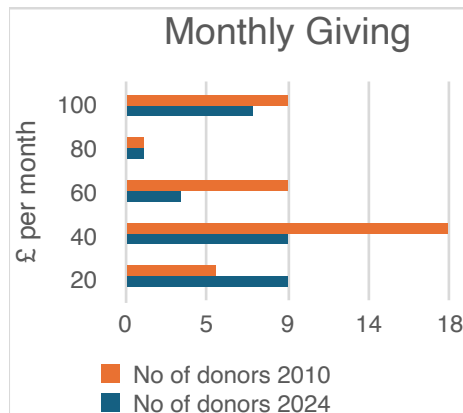
- 9 members who give between £0 - £20
- 9 members who give between £21-£40
- 3 members who give between £41- £60
- 1 member who gives between £61- £80
- 7 members who give £100 or more.

In 2024 we have a total of 29 regular donors (total £1500 per month),

In 2010 we had 41 regular donors (total £2340 per month).

I recognise that people give what they can and everyone has different circumstances so thank you whichever category you are in. Please consider - When was the last time you looked at your contributions, prayed about it, asked God about it?

Sue Burgess



"It's either an appeal to youth culture or we can't afford to service the boiler for the Winter season"

William Tyndale

On the 6th October in St Kentigern's, we will be celebrating William Tyndale (c. 1494 – October 1536) in our service of Morning Worship.

Tyndale was an English Biblical scholar and linguist who became a leading figure in the Protestant Reformation in the years leading up to his execution. He is well known as a translator of much of the Bible into English, and was influenced by the works of prominent Protestant Reformers such as Martin Luther.

Tyndale became convinced that the [Bible](#) alone should determine the practices and doctrines of the church and that all believers should be able to read the Bible in their own language. Tyndale's translations were the first English Scriptures to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press, the first of the new English Bibles of the Reformation, and the first English translation to use *Jehovah* as God's name.

Unfortunately his work was seen by the Catholic Church as a direct challenge to it's authority, both in England and on the continent. The work of Tyndale continued to play a key role in spreading Reformation ideas across the English-speaking world.

Tyndale's book *The Obedience of a Christian Man* (1528), was used by King Henry VIII as a rationale for the breaking away the Church in England from the Catholic Church. Tyndale also wrote *The Practice of Prelates*, which opposed Henry's plan to seek the annulment of his marriage on the grounds that it went against Scripture.

Tyndale fled England for Flanders, in the territory of the Catholic Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor. In 1535 Tyndale was arrested, and jailed in the castle of Vilvoorde (Filford) outside Brussels for over a year. In 1536 he was convicted of heresy and executed by strangulation, after which his body was burnt at the stake.

We remember him for his work in translating the scriptures into English, and for paving the way for future translators to translate the Bible into the language of the people.

The Wonders of Creation

A bird perched on a rock

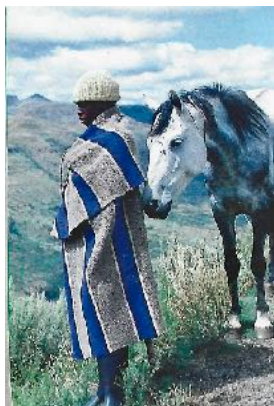


Armistice Day

Once again our commemoration of the fallen in two world wars and numerous other conflicts around the world looms. Once again we gather around village halls and crosses to remember those who gave their lives for freedom.

But while we take for granted services at the Cenotaph and up and down the country, and perhaps in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, we give little thought to those smaller countries that supported the Allies over the years.

I particularly remember in the 1980's when, after attending the remembrance service, the British Ambassador asked me if I and my daughter Jill would come back to the Embassy to help entertain the Basotho ex-servicemen.



Our eyes were opened to another world, where elderly, blanket-wrapped tribesmen were gathered to remember their own fallen from WW 2. In the Embassy Gardens on a lovely Spring morning we handed out chunky sandwiches and pints of beer whilst being enthralled by tales of their sorties in the Western desert, meeting Monty, and many other escapades.

We weren't the only nation to suffer and so few of us realise how many other

Commonwealth countries were involved and how they too commemorate this day with us worldwide

Peter Sowrey

Special Memory

Now D-Day is past, it brings back memories of where we lived at that time.

The night before, my Parents and I stood in the garden and heard and felt the very large number flying over our heads. I was only 7 3/4 years old, and my father said it was something I would never forget,

How right he was, I am nearly 90 years and still remember that night. What different planes flew over I could not tell you, they were from all over the world. The constant noise was seemingly never-ending, but by dawn it had ceased.

Daphne Laing

St Mary's Church bombed

By a strange coincidence, Eileen's Auntie Babs was a great friend and support for my grandmother, who lived in the same tenement block. And my grandmother went to St Mary's Church, Carden Place - we always went there too when we visited. So it was her church that was bombed that night, and we got a letter written the next day to tell us about it, and how they all gathered at the church with the Bishop that morning. The chancel was destroyed, but the church remained active, just with the east end closed off. It was very many years before it was restored to its former glory.

Sheila Maxwell



Wartime Memories

Strathdon is one of the best and luckiest places to be brought up during the Second World War. No bombing and air raids to leave your cosy beds for during the night time, we children hardly knew there was a war on. And being able to walk to school every day, we led an idyllic childhood.

However we did happen to be in Aberdeen the night when it suffered its worst air raid of the war when all its planes were away from their base. Our mum was with my sister and myself at Auntie Jean's in Richmond street after visiting our Dad in hospital. We couldn't get out to the shelter because all the German planes kept firing bullets everywhere. We were packed in a tiny lobby away from all the windows, singing songs to keep our spirits up, and I remember wearing my uncle's tin helmet. The house opposite was hit by a bullet that went through the window and set alight a quilt on a bed. That was the night when my auntie's church was bombed, St. Mary's in Carden Place. My sister has told me that I had wet my drawers that night, but I can't remember that happening as we couldn't get out to the outside toilet.

Eighteen months before the end of the war, my cousin Alan's house was bombed, so he came up to Scotland to stay with us. What a fabulous time we spent with him playing all sorts of new games, as he was a bit older than me, and younger than my sister. Well,



The burning of 'Hitler'

when the end of the war was declared, we had to do some celebrating and decided we would build a bonfire and hang and burn "Hitler" for bombing Alan's house. Our Grandad helped us make a guy and painted a turnip like Hitler for a head. The neighbours all gathered round and Alan lit the bonfire on a rather damp day, but we were all so happy. The next morning we looked at the remains and all we found was a roasted turnip cooked perfectly, I am afraid Alan jumped on it and squashed it flat.

Alan had sat his Eleven plus in Strathdon school and for years after he came up to us for his summer holidays.

Very many years later he came up for a Strathdon school reunion, but unfortunately he didn't find any of the boys he played with.

Sadly we lost dear Alan in his late seventies, but after a very successful career. In London he joined John Lewis's material and fabric department after school, went to evening classes, studied hard and ended up being Manager of the Houndsditch Warehouse in London, a very much loved cousin, a kind and generous man, so missed,



Alan with Sheila and Eileen

Coming up to Remembrance Sunday we give our grateful thanks to God and all who gave their lives for us to enable us to pass on our memories today.

Eileen A. Davies

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To think about -

It is religion without love that has been responsible for most of the misery of the world.
- Anon

Hot Chocolate Walk - August

On a beautiful afternoon three of us from St Thomas's went on a 'Hot chocolate Walk' at Lumphanan.



We went on the Lumphanan Circular walk which is a stunning and varied walk. It begins with a slight climb up the Old Military Road beside the now closed Stothert's Memorial Church. This takes one through Ancient woodlands full of outstanding wild flowers, fungi and trees full of early Autumn berries. After a time we went through a kissing gate and south through more woodland, eventually reaching the open with stunning views to the Cairngorms and South Deeside. Here we enjoyed both cake and the incredible views!



Refreshed we continued the walk reaching Lover's Lane and the remains of the Deeside Way railway line. We stopped at one point to admire the stream and the wildlife within it before returning to the car.



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Carol Birss

Hot Chocolate Walk - September

The Walks continued in September with a walk to the Hut Circles at Dinnet. Rain had been predicted but fortunately came to nothing. So on a lovely day, we saw swallows getting ready to leave us, and in the distance the plane towing a glider towards a magnificent rainbow.

The hut circles are believed to be relicts of an Iron Age settlement, one of three settlements going back 2,500 - 3,000 years. It consists of five circular enclosures that look like monster stone circles. And a perfect place for a mid-walk break!

Hilary/Sheila



News from

Aboyne-Dinnet

Saturday October 5th, 10am, Ladies Breakfast & Talk planned by the Community Life Group of Aboyne-Dinnet Church, especially those who love the Doric language. On Saturday, 5th October, our speaker will be Gordon Hay, who has translated the Bible into Doric. This project has taken him 17 years to complete! He will share with us why he translated the Bible into Doric and the challenges he encountered while doing it. Tickets are £5 and can be secured by contacting Christa on 86562 or by email christa.markham@btinternet.com. The venue is the church hall on Huntly Road

Aboyne-Dinnet Church Guild meets monthly. Next meetings are:

Thursday 7th November - Afternoon meeting, 2 pm: Speaker Flora Buthlay: Topic *Same Guild, fresh spirit*,

Saturday 30th November Christmas *Coffee Morning and Bazaar*, 10 am – 12 noon

All meetings take place in the church hall on Huntly Road

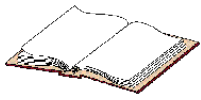
The Guild is a movement within the Church of Scotland but open to all. Our general aim is to help all members in personal growth and development. Our regular meetings help to provide fun and support to those who attend.

The Women's Guild was founded over 130 years ago. We may be smaller than in our glory days, but we still have influence. For example, those small charities considered for our Partner Projects have usually gone on to greater things. Mary's Meals now reaches millions of school children in poor countries and The Perth Prison Project has helped to fight the stigma of having a parent in jail. The latest partners include Bibles for Bairns. This aims to create the habit of reading together to the 50% of children who are not read to at home, with the finest of books carefully adapted to their age and ability.

The Wonders of creation

Two baby sparrows





Readings for October and November, 2024

6th October Trinity 19	Proverbs 8:4-11 2 Timothy 3:12-end John 17:6-8, 14-19	Margaret Jaffray <i>William Tyndale</i>	Carol Birss <i>Harvest</i>
13th October Trinity 20	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 Hebrews 4:12-16 Mark 10:17-21	<i>Service at Crathie Church No service in either Church</i>	
20th October Trinity 21	Isaiah 53:4-12 Hebrews 5:1-10 Mark 10:35-45	Sabrina Humphrey	Anne Harper
27th October Trinity 22	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Hebrews 7:23-38 Mark 10:46-52	Hilary Mutch	Isabel Wilson
3rd November Trinity 23 All Saints	Isaiah 25:6-9 Revelation 21:1-6a John 11:32-44	Sabine Muir	Rider Family
10th November Trinity 24 Remembrance	Job 19:21-27 1 Corinthians 15:51-57 John 6:37-40	<i>Remembrance Sunday No service in either church</i>	
17th November Trinity 25	Daniel 12:1-3 Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25 Mark 13:1-8	Stanley Ewen	Isabel Wilson
24th November Christ the King	Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Revelation 1:4b-8 John 18:33-37	Marcus Humphrey	Meg White
1st December ADVENT SUNDAY	Jeremiah 33:14-16 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13 Luke 21:25-36	Susan Smith	Sue and Warren Burgess
HARVEST READINGS	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 2 Corinthians 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19		

3rd November: **Sung Evensong** for all at St Thomas's. A simple Evensong with hymns, and using chants for everyone to sing for the canticles, led by a small choir.

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.

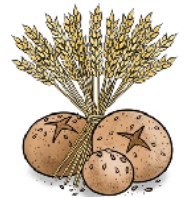
The **St Kentigern's Sunday Club** normally meets on the **third Sunday of every month at 9.30am** in the Church Hall. The children are brought back into Church to join their families during the Offertory Hymn.

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

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A Hymn for the Harvest

We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by God's almighty hand;
he sends the snow in winter,
warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine
and soft refreshing rain.



*All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above,
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord
for all his love.*

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:

6th October, 'The Word', remembering William Tyndale.

3rd November,
'Walking in the Light'

From the Bible for the young and not so young



The birth of Isaac

Some of the most important people in the Bible had odd stories surrounding their birth, that are worth thinking about. The most wonderful stories of course are of the birth of Jesus, and we will be thinking about that over Christmas. But there are unusual birth stories in the Old Testament too, and one of these is about Isaac, son of Abraham,

who was regarded as Father of the Israelites.

Abraham was at first called Abram, and was a descendent of Noah, whose Ark saved Noah and his family from the wrath of God. Abram had settled in Canaan with lots of his family, led by his father Terah. But Terah died at a great age, and God came to Abram and told him to leave his home. He would show Abram an unknown land that was to be his. Then He blessed him, and promised to make Abram the 'Father' of a great nation. The stories in the Old Testament let us see how wonderfully this was fulfilled.

So Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, along with all his possessions, people, animals and tents, and they came to a place near Bethel, where typically Abram built an altar to the Lord. They had all sorts of adventures from there, involving famines and wars with neighbouring tribes among other things. But several times, the Lord spoke to Abram, telling him that the land would be his, and his descendants, in spite of Abram having no children of his own.

Sarai became worried about this, so much so that she insisted that Abram, in spite of being 86 years old, should have a child by her servant Hagar, so that at least he would have family to take over the land. And this was done, with Hagar having a son they called Ishmael. However, he was not Abram's legitimate child, and this was not good enough.

Then four years later, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said he would make an agreement with Abram, and in return, Abram would be 'Father' of a huge family of descendants. He would not longer be Abram, but Abraham, meaning the Father of many nations. God would be with him, make him fruitful in his life, and in return all the males who belonged to him would be circumcised, including babies at 8 days old. As for Sarai, she would now be called Sarah, meaning Princess. God said that he would bless her, and she would bear a child, and would be mother of the nations.

Regrettably, Abraham fell about laughing at the thought of a child being conceived at their great age. But God persisted. He said the child would be called Isaac, and as the son of his wife, he, not Ishmael, would inherit all the great nations.

And so it all happened, Sarah had her son as promised by God, and called him Isaac. And as in the covenant, he was circumcised at 8 days old. And we are told that God had made Sarah laugh, that she had been able to have this child in their old age.



And so Isaac grew up to be another great Leader of the Israelites, all part of the great story that finally led to the birth of Jesus.

Celebrating Creation-tide

A simple prayer for Creationtide:

God of love and life, restore us in your peace, renew us through your power and teach us to love all that you have created and to care for the earth as your gift and our home
We praise God for all the wonders of creation, all so different.

Harvest

In the quietness of the old church
Propped in the corner
Stands the sheaf of corn
Pale gold, gleaming in the light
Stirred by the breeze, it rustles slightly
The seeds are ripe,
Ready for the harvest
For the planting
For the coming year
Waiting
For future to be decided.

Vittoria Hancock



*A little dragonfly
on some honeysuckle*



A magnificent horse



The birds in the garden
Sing their farewell song
Starlings gather on the
telephone wire
Ready for take off

IN THE STEPS OF PALLADIO, GIOTTO AND VERONESE – PART 1

At the end of May Sabrina and I were joined by Richard and Pamela Marsh for a few days in Italy in the Veneto area, as part of a small tour led by Tom Duncan and James Hill of Ciceroni Travel. We flew to Milan and then had a long coach drive to our hotel, the 4 star Hotel Villa Michelangelo, originally a small palazzo, in the hills about 5 miles south of Vicenza, and which was quiet and very comfortable. It was lovely to feel the warmth of a constant 26C temperature throughout our stay.

On our first day we drove the short distance to Vicenza. Vicenza is a very prosperous city reflecting its commercial importance over many centuries. Originally a Roman town, it was destroyed during the Barbarian invasions and then rose again in the medieval period. It came under Venetian protection in the fifteenth century, initiating a period of prosperity all happily reflected in its marvellous range of public and private buildings, not least those by Palladio and Scamozzi. Today it is the capital of Italy's wholesale gold and jewelry business.



Palladio's Basilica Vicenza

We began with a walk through the city centre to familiarize ourselves with the local architectural background to Palladio's career, and looked at a selection of his exterior palace designs including the Palazzo Thienne, Palazzo Iseppa da Porto and Palazzo Varmarana, none of which are now in family ownership. We also examined Palladio's famous re-cladding of the city's Palazzo della Ragione or Basilica, with its double height arrangement of arcaded openings. The Palladio Museum is housed in the Palazzo Barbaran – Da Porto, and is dedicated to the life and work of Palladio. There we saw a series of rooms, retaining mostly seventeenth and eighteenth century decorations, with a number of remarkable wooden models of Palladio's church, villa and urban designs.



Palladio's Teatro Olimpico, Vicenza

After lunch in the square we explored one of Palladio's urban masterpieces at the Teatro Olimpico. This is a superb theatre designed by Palladio just before his death in 1580 in imitation of ancient Roman models, and finished by Scamozzi after Palladio's death. We returned to our hotel via the nearby Basilica di Monte Berico, where we admired the *Supper of St Gregory the Great*, a masterpiece by Paolo Veronese painted in 1572.

Next morning we were taken by coach to Padua, where we saw what remains of the frescoes of Andrea Mantegna in the church of the Eremiti, completed in 1459 and tragically damaged during an Allied air raid in 1944, though happily some of the frescoes partially survived. Padua is dominated by the work of Giotto, who painted his most famous cycle of frescoes at the Arena Chapel, also known as the Scrovegni Chapel, completed in 1313. The twin narratives of Christ and the Virgin are the most profoundly moving works of the art in the entire fourteenth century and exercised an extraordinary influence on art thereafter.



Giotto frescoes Scrovegni Chapel, Padua



In the afternoon we drove to the low-lying mainland outskirts of Venice to visit Villa Foscari, long known as La Malcontenta and commissioned by Alvise and Nicolo Foscari in 1558. Palladio's creation rises from a high pedestal base next to the Brenta Canal and is still privately owned by the Foscari family. We were pleased to be allowed to see some of the frescoed interiors of this famous Palladian villa.



Ice cream time!

**Marcus Humphrey
June 2024.**

The Wonders of Creation

God made Caterpillars too - such a lovely form



Ballater Victoria Week

The week started with an ecumenical concert on Sunday 4th August at Glenmuick Church, featuring the Salvation Army Band and the local community choir The Ballateers, which includes some of our congregation. They performed two numbers Your Raise Me Up, and Psalm 23, The Lord is My Shepherd (Howard Goodall's theme tune for the Vicar of Dibley) It was very well attended.



An afternoon Tea was held at St Kentigern's Church Hall on Tuesday 6th August, and it was a lovely joyful occasion, with lots of people, even visitors from the USA, tucking into scones and cakes.

The church was bedecked with flowers, Sabrina and Maggie did a wonderful job creating the beautiful displays. Stanley played the organ to welcome people in.



Maggie re-donated a gift from the late Queen, a beautiful stacking cake plate to be raffled off. It was won by a very surprised Sabine, who was thrilled to receive it. We raised just over £270.

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Children were happy to feed our scarecrow Munching Mike with recycling items. He resided in the church for the duration of Victoria Week. Many visitors popped in to have look around.



The week ended with the Duck Race. Vittoria happily joined in with catching the winning ducks.



It was a sunny day and a record amount of people were there to enjoy the event.

Sabine

Evening of Praise in St Thomas's Church - 11 August



It has been wonderful to see the church used on a number of occasions over the summer as a venue for this year's Deeside Festival

The first of these events was an inspiring Evening of Praise with St

Thomas's Augmented Choir conducted by Lucy Bailey and accompanied by our own organist Sheila Maxwell. As always so much thought had gone in to the varied and enjoyable programme. This was particularly the case in the choice of the anthems, sung by the choir - from the familiar to the more modern.

How appropriate that one of the more traditional anthems should be by C V Stanford, whose 100 year death anniversary is being commemorated this year at the Proms and in churches throughout the country.

The modern anthem was one of comforting words with music by Philip Stopford - "Do not be Afraid". It was only composed in 2010, as a gift for the Baptism of a friend's daughter, but is already becoming a popular anthem in many cathedrals. It is an anthem "of comfort and assurance" built around the words 'Do not be afraid' (text by Gerard Parkland and based on Isaiah 43 vv1-3) and set to Stopford's "memorable and deeply moving music"

The choir's performances were interspersed with the opportunity for the congregation to sing well known and beautiful hymns, again traditional and modern ones being chosen. Little, however did we know, while singing the rousing "Tell out my soul" by Bishop Timothy Dudley-Smith to the fabulous tune of Woodlands that his death at the age of 97 would be announced the following day. He has left behind a legacy of about 400 hymns, many of which are sung regularly in churches of all denominations. John Betjeman said of this magnificent hymn - it is "one of the few modern hymns that will truly last" and it certainly has!

The programme of Praise, sung by the choir and congregation, was further interspersed with an inspired instrumental trio, Richard and Angela Clark with Daphne Formby, playing an arrangement of the beautiful 'Combatti da Forte!' from Handel's Rinaldo, organist David Fletcher playing an organ solo - "Prelude in Classic Style" by Gordon Young, and by two readers reading thoughtful poems. We were also treated to a delightful duet from 2 members of the choir - "O Lovely Peace" by Handel and by a truly stunning solo by Lucy Bailey singing "Ave Maria" Caccini. In all a delightful Evening of Praise

The evening was made even more special by the delicious spread of refreshments laid on by Joe and Lesley at the end of this Evening of Praise.

Carol Birss

Congratulations and Commiserations

Baptisms

Vesper Woodman is to be baptised in St Kentigern's in November.
Please pray for him and the family.

Weddings and Wedding Blessings

Ben and Liz Faulkhardt had their wedding blessed at Birse Kirk in September
Dr Stanley Ewen and Mrs Margaret Jaffray are to be married
in St Kentigern's in October

Iain McIntosh and Janet are to be married in St Thomas' in November
Please pray for these couples at this new stage of their lives together.

Funerals

The funeral of Neil Scott took place at St Thomas' in August
The funeral of Flora Marjory Fraser, Lady Saltoun, took place at St Ninian's
in September

The funeral of Gwen Andrew took place at Baldarroch Crematorium
in September

Please pray for the family and friends of these at this time.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Carole Nicoll and to Marcus Humphrey for winning prizes at the Ballater Garden Festival.

The Wonders of Creation

Bow Fiddle Rock is a natural sea arch near Portknockie. It is composed of Quartzite, and dates from the Neoproterozoic Era, 1,000 to 539 million years ago. It is a great nesting place for sea birds including herring gulls, great black-backed gulls and lesser black-backed gulls.



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.stthomasaboyme.org>

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

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

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

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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, Aboyme
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

Doreen Ewen (tel 013397 55538)

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 November 12th

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, Sue Burgess