



CHURCH MAGAZINE

Easter

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2009



BANCHORY EAST CHURCH

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch.org

BANCHORY EAST

PASTORAL LETTER

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FOR three years he had slowly been replacing his disciples' visions of power. Showing them, telling them, it wasn't about strength, or empires, or places of honour. It was about humility, and service, and gentleness, and mercy, and justice, and healing.



For three years he had also been telling them, "A time is coming when I will no longer be with you." "In order to be with you, I must leave you." "Even though I am leaving you, I will still be with you." "I must leave you so I can prepare a place for you to come and be with me." "I must die, so that I can be raised up again." "I must die so that you can really live." For three years they didn't really fully understand.

But now, from a distance they watched as the truth in his words became reality in their hearts. They remembered, "A seed must be placed in the ground and die, before it can live." They watched, from a distance, as He was placed in the ground, in the tomb, and wondered where they had gone wrong. But He was about to show them that He knew what He was doing.

Three days passed as they hid and wondered about Him.

Three days passed as they remembered His words and his actions.

Three days passed as they waited in fear for the knock on the door that would take them to the same fate.

Then, on the third day a message was heard, "He is risen!" "He

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is alive!” One by one they realised that the seed that had been planted had blossomed into life. One by one they had their hope revived.

For three years they had followed. For three days they had hidden and wondered. And on the third day they came out of hiding, and with no fear for their own safety, they proclaimed all they had seen and heard over those three years, all they had witnessed over those three days. And they posed one question to all who heard - Because he has lived, because he has shown us the way, because he has died, because he is risen, because he is alive ... Will you follow Him?

The news of that first Easter Day remains the same... “He is alive!” “He is risen!”

And because of that, the question remains the same for us Will you follow him?

May you experience in your hearts the peace that only Christ can give, and in your living may you know the joy that comes to those who know that Christ is risen and is with us. And so we echo the words of the Easter morning greeting ...

Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed!

Your minister ... Mary Haddow

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RABBIE BURNES

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IN this Year of Homcoming based around Robert Burns' 250th birthday, we thought we would see if the bard had an Aberdeenshire connection - and he did! His father (William



**The Burnes Cairn
on the A90**

Burnes - Robert dropped the e in his surname) used to farm in the Mearns, near Stonehaven and there is a cairn on the A90 to commemorate him. William Burnes moved from the North East of Scotland in 1750 to Edinburgh to work on the Meadows project. He then moved to Alloway in Ayrshire where he first worked as a gardener on the estate of Provost Ferguson. In April 1766, when his famous son was seven years old, he took a 12 year lease on the 70 acre farm Mount Oliphant from Provost Ferguson. And that is why Rabbie Burns comes from Ayr!

Next Magazine

Contributions to Nigel Bowker by 15th May, please.
e-mail: nigel@blackhallconsulting.co.uk

ORGAN REDEDICATION

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THE organ was rededicated at the service on 11th January. The opening hymn was "All People That On Earth Do Dwell", which was sung at the original use of the organ in 1887.



NEW ORGAN FOR BANCHORY PARISH CHURCH.— The fine new organ which has been erected in the Parish Church of Banchory-Ternan by Messrs Wadsworth Brothers, Manchester, was used in public worship for the first time on Sunday. The organ was played by Mr Wardle, the Aberdeen representative of the firm named, and the newly-appointed organist, Mr John Milne, Aberdeen, acted as conductor. The organ, the specifications of which have already been published, gave the utmost satisfaction to the large congregation which assembled. Rev. Dr Hutchison, in his sermon, made an appropriate reference to the introduction of the organ. The tunes sung were "Old Hundredth," "Nicaea," "Nenthorn," "St Gertrude," and "Paradise," and at the close of the service Mr Wardle played Gounod's "Marche Romaine."

How did we know what had been sung then? Because Muriel and David Welch found it recorded in the Aberdeen Journal at the time!

With this in mind we suggested that the P&J might like to report the organ's refurbishment, which they duly did on 20th January. We told them to expect us to be in touch about the organ in another 122 years!



PLAY ON Banchory East Ternan Church organist Muriel Welch with the renovated organ. Photograph: Fanny Erick

New lease of life for Banchory organ after renovation

PAINSTAKING NINE-MONTH OVERHAUL OF 122-YEAR-OLD INSTRUMENT COST £50,000

BY LEANNA MACLARTY
AN ANTIQUE ORGAN has been given a new lease of life after a major £50,000 renovation.
The organ has had hymns at Banchory East Ternan Church since it was installed in 1887, as reported by the Aberdeen Journal at the time.
The 122-year-old instrument had not been altered since it was moved into the

church's newly-built chancel in 1982.
Over the 70 years that followed, some of the organ's 600 tonal pipes stopped working while others became bent out of shape.
A painstaking nine-month overhaul of the organ has recently been completed and was part-funded from a legacy left to the church by a former organist at Aberdeen Cathedral.
Many of the church's 600

members held a sponsored sing to raise the rest of the funds.
Muriel Welch, of Woodside Road at Banchory, has been the church organist for five years and is delighted with the results.
"It was amazing to have it for quite a long time," she said.
"It is brilliant now compared to how it was."
As part of the repair, the lead tubing connecting the

pipes and keys was removed and replaced with wooden rods, the same used when the organ was new.
"We changed to the lead tubing when it was put into the chancel because there was not very much room," said Mrs Welch.
"This will last much longer.
"It creates a better sound, a brighter and fuller sound."
While the nine-month project was being carried out

Mrs Welch had to make do with a digital piano which she says the congregation was "hesitant to get a bit used to".
The Dundee congregation was invited to a recital of the first hymn the organ ever played. All people that on earth do dwell, at a dedication service on Sunday.
Mrs Welch says she expects the organ to be playing hymns for at least another 50 years.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

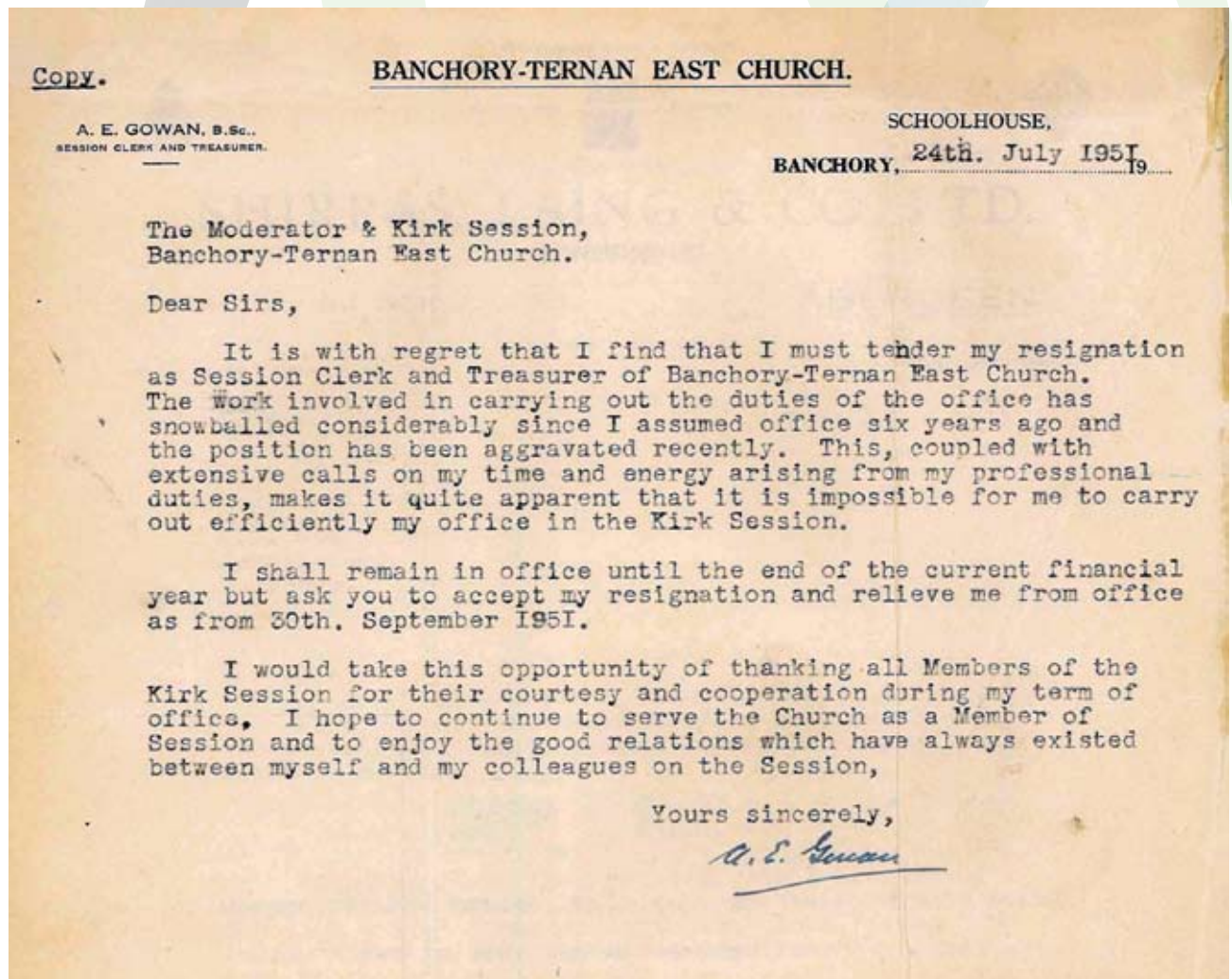
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On 24th July 1951, the Session Clerk and Treasurer (one person!) wrote to the Kirk Session, saying; “It is with regret that I must tender my resignation as Session Clerk and Treasurer of Banchory-Ternan East Church. The work involved in carrying out the duties of the office has snowballed considerably since I assumed office six years ago and the position has been aggravated recently. This, coupled with extensive calls on my time and energy arising from my professional duties, makes it quite apparent that it is impossible for me to carry out efficiently my office in the Kirk Session.”

So one thing doesn't change: the ever-increasing demands on Session Clerks and Treasurers in the Church of Scotland!



AU REVOIR!

CHURCH MAGAZINE

On 1st March, we bid farewell to Laurie Wheeler, who is becoming Assistant Pastor at the American Church in Paris. We wish her well and thank her for her tremendous achievement as Children's and Families' Worker over the last year.



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Laurie with her co-workers

This is the American Church in Paris. You can find out more at their website, www.acparis.org. Indeed, you can download her sermons from there as well!



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MIDWIFERY IN CHINA

by Mary Black

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I am an integrated midwife at Aboyne hospital and last year I had the opportunity to visit China on a midwifery study tour. I spent two weeks in various maternity hospitals in Shanghai, Beijing, Xian, and rural Yangshou. The idea of the trip was to learn from each other and to understand the cultural differences



between western and eastern traditions around maternity care.

My first impressions of the maternity services in China were that due to

the number of babies being delivered, the women are not able to experience any personal touch from the midwife. Shanghai has a population of 23 million; the main maternity hospital is the Peace Maternity Hospital, births per annum 11,000! Which averages out about 900 a month. I found this quite staggering as Aberdeen Maternity Hospital delivered 4,600 babies and Aboyne Hospital in Deeside, 80 births for 2008!

The one child policy became mandatory in 1982, prior to this it was only encouraged. China's population is 1.3 billion and increasing at a rate of 15 million a year! This should start to fall by 2020, the reason being that the women having babies now are the first generation of a one child family. In the rural

communities, women can have a second child if the first is a girl. Boys are still very much wanted in the country regions to work the land but girls are seen to be an asset in the cities. China is advancing at such a rate that young women are very much needed for the many IT jobs that have been created over the last decade.

We had a very interesting visit to the Chinese medicine pharmacy where we saw how many of the herbs are used as an effective means of pain relief, especially in labour. 80% of Chinese will use this for of treatment before western medicine. Acupuncture is commonly used as well, and I could definitely see a benefit to its use for pain relief in labour.

Beijing was the next stop, population 18 million. Post Olympics Beijing is a very exciting place, very clean no pollution compared to Shanghai. We went to see a baby clinic and a nursery; we were able to give gifts of pencils and books to the children. The maternity hospital we visited covers an area of 3 million people! Total births 12,000 per annum. The director of midwifery was very interested to learn about the community midwife service that is offered in the UK She felt that this was the way forward in China but would take time to implement. We were able to give the midwives contact and email addresses that may be of help.

Xian is a polluted industrial place with a population of 18 million. We visited an orphanage, where many babies with minor abnormalities had been abandoned. The children looked well cared for but it was sad to see so many babies with congenital problems which in the west could be cured with surgery.

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JOHN CALVIN by Iain Brown

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John Calvin was born on the 27th of July 1509 in Northern France. In many parts of the world events are being held to celebrate the 500th anniversary of his birth. As Scots we should be interested in this man because of the profound influence he has had upon our nation and its Church.

John Calvin's father, the Financial Secretary to the Bishop of Nyons, was ambitious for his son and, wanting him to have a well paid job in the Church, sent him to the University of Paris at the age of 14 to study for an Arts degree. John graduated with high distinction five years later. Mr Calvin, senior, had, however, changed his mind and, thinking that his son would make more money as a lawyer, sent him to Orleans to study law. Once again Calvin proved himself to be a brilliant student, so much so that his professors trusted him with much of the teaching of his fellow students. When he finished his course he was unanimously granted a Doctorate by his teachers as a thank you for all his assistance. This was especially surprising because, during his years in Orleans he spent much of his time studying Theology. Some time during his student years he had an experience that changed his life. He wrote, "God by a sudden conversion subdued and brought my mind to a teachable frame." and "Within a year those who had a desire to learn pure doctrine were coming to me ... and God brought me forth to public notice." France was a dangerous place for someone proclaiming Protestant doctrines and Calvin moved to Basle. There he continued his studies in theology and there he published, in 1536, the first edition

JOHN CALVIN

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of his most important book, based upon the Apostles' Creed, *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. (A larger edition was published in 1541 and the final edition in 1559). This was recognised as the finest book on the Protestant Faith in the 16th Century - and to many people it still is today!



Determined to continue his studies and his writing, Calvin planned to visit Strasbourg, but had to detour to the city of Geneva. The city fathers had accepted the Protestant Religion a few years earlier and had appointed William Farel as the senior minister.

When he learned that John Calvin, the brilliant student of Theology and the distinguished author of “The Institutes”, was in town, he persuaded Calvin to stay and help him to reform the Church and the City. It was in Geneva that Calvin proclaimed the Reformed Doctrines that the city would export to many

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countries. It was in Geneva that Calvin sought to purify the city by encouraging Church Members to live Christian lives. This proved to be a struggle and for three years, 1538 - 1541, the City Council banished both Calvin and Farel. The life of the city deteriorated so much that the Council begged Calvin to return and gave him increased powers. Such were the improvements in Church and city that many Church Leaders visited Geneva to learn how to improve their own ministries. One such visitor was John Knox who said that Geneva was, "The most perfect school of Christ that ever was on earth since the days of the Apostles." He brought back to Scotland Calvin's idea of Elders being appointed to different parts of the city to oversee the behaviour of the residents; and Calvin's preaching, emphasising the Sovereignty of God. Thus in Scotland the Church was organised by Ministers and Elders meeting in Sessions, Presbyteries, Synods and General Assemblies. Also in Scotland the Calvinistic emphasis on Sovereignty influenced so much of its doctrine. Our Church's subordinate standard, *The Westminster Confession of Faith*, reflects Calvin's emphasis on the fact that God is in control of our lives in time and in eternity.

John Calvin died on the 27th of May 1564 worn out by a work schedule of preaching, lecturing writing and pastoral caring that modern ministers could not cope with despite all the electronic and other aids available to them. He once said about one of his congregations that while many respected him few loved him. He would be amazed to think that in Geneva, and in other places, he would still be so respected - and loved - 500 years after his birth.



Caitlin Marno is working with Pais Project in Calgary, Canada. On 4th January, she gave us an update on her activity. Here she is with Laurie Wheeler, telling us what a wonderful time she is having working for God in Canada.

Caitlin with her team in Calgary. They engage in a variety of activities, including a lot of work in schools.



It's all going on in Calgary, which is just about here! For extra excitement, Caitlin had suspected appendicitis. Fortunately, it was a false alarm.

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WORLD MISSION by Johanna Bell

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Kandy Report

Rev Saman Perera has recently been appointed as Moderator of the Presbytery of Lanka in addition to lecturing at two theological colleges. As Executive of Kandy City Mission and his Pastoral work with the Presbyterian Church he does all this without any secretarial assistance so it is understandable that communication is sporadic. We are fortunate that our contact with St Margaret's in Glenrothes ensures that any news from Kandy is shared with us.

Outreach Ministry at Pupurassa (ministry among Tamil Plantation workers)

Around 120 children are already attending Bible classes as well as their school work led by Rajah (evangelist) and his family. Despite objections the problems regarding the building of a Community Centre have been overcome and the land purchased has been cleared and fenced. The building plan has been approved but additional funding will be necessary.

Funds

A total of £1000 was gifted by our church to the Kandy partnership last August. The money raised by the Tuesday Craft Group is given entirely to this project.

Kandy City Mission

£500 of the gift was given to help educate poorer children in the community. This is the only schooling available to these children and before they start lessons a meal is given to them.

Women's Development Centre

Pearl Stephen has acknowledged the other £500 of the gift which was received just when teaching material was required for the children at Heeregama. She recommended a DVD which has



**The Scot's
Kirk, Kandy**

been produced by a Canadian Visitor and which is now available from me for anyone who wishes to know more of the work being done by the WDC.

Both Saman and Pearl ask for our prayer support in their work and for peace in their country during this time of continuing war and conflict where it is often the innocent who suffer as a result of the turmoil.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELIGION

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The 21st Century stands on the shoulders of all previous centuries. Our current understanding of what makes human beings different from other animals comes from millennia of self-understanding of people of previous generations. We inherit what we know from the past. Our understanding today comes from the understandings of the past.

This article is written in English, since that is my 'mother tongue'. But its content is drawn from the past of people from every corner of the globe, i.e. from civilizations predating the European/Western civilization e.g. Africa, China, India and the Middle East: indeed from anywhere on Planet Earth. This article is a visual form of communication, that is a written form. In the development of human communication with one another, the oral form predates the written form. The vocal or aural form is sometimes also referred to as Oral Tradition.

As human language developed, the many forms, nowadays referred to as languages, were regionally, and hence, culturally conditioned. Written forms came later in various scripts or hieroglyphics, on various mediums e.g. stone (obelisks), skins (parchment), metal (coins), and various vegetable preparations we commonly call paper (with the shortest lasting life of any of the previous materials). These were used by various human groups, in various geographical locations, in various ages.

The origin of all written materials is the spoken word. Understanding this is the key to understanding all written texts, that seek to pass on the insights of previous generations. In the same way modern scientific discoveries are based upon its beginnings in the 14th century, when the 'scientific method' came into practice. Prior to this, there were those

.... AND ITS WRITINGS

by Peter Bell

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called scientists who studied mathematics and the stars in the heavens. Such studies were particularly true of the Middle East centres of learning, from Alexandria in Egypt to Isfahan in Persia. The biblical references to “wise men from the East” are to such scholars, whether Astronomers or Astrologers or some combination of the two. This is but one of the many written references in the religious texts (and others) of the Jewish Torah, the Christian New Testament, and the Muslim Koran, as other strange events in some peoples’ lives are recorded in the Hindu Vedantas, the Buddhist Bhagavad Gita and many others.

The night sky, the stars and their movements, light(s) and darkness occupied the minds of all human beings, the greatest and the least of intellects, from time immemorial. The festivals of light(s) and dark (ness), about the end of the winter solstice in some calendars, are common to many cultural/religious festivals. Christ-mass, with all its accretions over the centuries, is but one such. Even secular Britain likes to celebrate this cultural recognition of the felt movement from dark to light viz. packed churches on Christmas eve, whether almost empty the rest of the year. It is a festival for celebration.

The Bible is essentially a product of the Middle East, written in Classical Hebrew, no longer spoken, in a form of Greek, no longer spoken, and in Aramaic. These writings were later translated into Latin, when the Emperor Constantine declared Christianity to be the official religion of Rome, and, then, much later into English, officially, by King James 1 and into scores of other languages ever since.

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STOP PRESS!

by Nigel Bowker

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In our concern over what is happening with respect to the replacement Bellfield Home (see Page 31) many of us may not have thought much about the fate of the existing site. I can certainly confess to having been asleep on this particular issue.

Anyway, I have just woken up to the matter and discovered that the planning application that has been submitted is to demolish the existing building and construct 24 flats and 6 retail/commercial units including 35 parking spaces.

Speaking personally, I would be deeply disappointed if one of Banchory's iconic buildings was to disappear. I had innocently assumed that it was a listed building and would therefore be protected.

If you want to view and/or comment on the proposal, you can do so at:

http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/planning/apps/detail.asp?ref_no=APP/2009/0252

The Community Council (new Vice-Chairwoman Margaret Thom) are on the case, but the more comments the better.

Comic Relief, Sport Relief, Band Aid, Live Aid and Gift Aid

by Janice Innes

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Depending on your age, you may remember some or all of these! They all have things in common – helping worthy causes by raising money. Some of them occur once a year, some are memories but the one that is continuous is Gift Aid.

For just over 5 years now, I have held the position of Gift Aid Convener within the Church....so what does this mean? Well, I didn't know what it meant before I took the job on, but now I fully realise and appreciate that the Church couldn't get by without it. You may remember our grateful thanks (not) to the Chancellor last year, when it was announced that the amount we could claim was being reduced from 22p per £ to 20p. Thankfully, owing to the protestations by all charities, this amendment has been put on holdquite simply because all charities would not survive without it AND I'm afraid to say that we are no different.

In essence, a good number of you have signed up to give your financial gifts to the Church through Gift Aid – this means that you have simply signed and dated a form, to say that you wish your donations to be claimed through Gift Aid because you are a taxpayer (either Income or Capital Gains Tax). After this, I use the total amount of your donations to submit a claim to HMRC and the Taxman (taxperson) kindly give us money (the tax you have paid on that money) back. Whilst you may not think that this amounts to much, you may be surprised to learn that the total amount claimed for the whole of 2008 was £14,302.87.

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Comic Relief, Sport Relief, Band Aid, Live Aid and Gift Aid

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This makes up a fair percentage of the Church's total income.

In these harsher times, the benefits of Gift Aid are even more prominent and as there is a likelihood in the future that this benefit will reduce, it makes sense for us to capitalise on it as much as possible in the interim.

Gift Aid forms are always available in the Church Vestibule, but if you would like to discuss this further with me, please let me know. Gift Aid is here, it is now and it helps us.....what more can I say.

Janice Innes
Gift Aid Convener

Banchory Christians Together

A reminder that Banchory East Church's involvement in Banchory Christians Together is co-ordinated by Sandra Pennington and Margaret Thom. If you want to find out more, feel free to have a word with one of them.

AWARD WINNER!

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Congratulations to Tony Stephen, who won the Faith Issues Youth Worker of the Year award. The award is made by YouthLink Scotland.

This is the award, which is so well deserved.



Here, Tony is flanked by John Swinney MSP and Mike Scott. Tony is typically modest about his achievement, giving credit to the whole team and the members (current and past) of the Edge and the Rock.

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CHURCH CALENDAR

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MARCH		
21st	10 am	Men's Group Coffee Morning
22nd	10.30 am	Mothers Day. Morning Worship
26th	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
28th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
29th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
		Annual Stated Meeting
APRIL		
5th	10.30 am	Palm Sunday. Morning Wor- ship
6th	10.30 am	Morning Service in West Church
7th	10.30 am	Morning Service in West Church
8th	10.30 am	Morning Service in West Church
9th	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
	7.30 pm	Joint Maundy Thursday Service in West Church
10th	7.30 am	Good Friday. Walk with the cross from East Church
	7.30 pm	Service in East Church
12th	9.00 am	Easter Day. Service at the Platties
	10.30 am	Morning Worship
19th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
20th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
23rd	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
26th	10.30 am	Morning Worship

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MAY		
3rd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
10th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
11th	7.30 pm	Congregational Board
17th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
24th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
31st	10.30 am	Morning Worship
JUNE		
7th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
8th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
14th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
21st	10.30 am	Morning Worship

News by Tony Stephen

Congratulations to David Young who is about to begin as part-time youth co-ordinator for “Ysunday” the youth project run by Durris-Drumoak Parish Church. David will also be representing K&D Presbytery as a Youth Delegate at the General Assembly.

Congratulations to Alex Smith who is going to Malawi with others from the Children’s Assembly on 9th July.

This year’s summer service project by the Edge will be a trip to Edinburgh to work with charity projects in partnership with Greenbank Parish Church and their Youth Worker Fizz Wann (former rookie with Edge and Rock).

BANCHORY EAST

MIDWIFERY IN CHINA

(Concluded)

Easter

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We donated money to the orphanage to buy toys and books.

The last city we visited was Yangshou. This small local rural maternity hospital delivers a mere 2,500 babies a year! This hospital could be compared to Aboyne!! (rural and uncomplicated births) The Staff were very friendly and keen to learn all about the care in the community given to women once they go home from hospital. We left them information



and contact numbers with the Royal College of Midwives in the U.K. The RCM has an international membership and we were very keen for the Chinese midwives to become members. This would give them access to research based evidence that is being carried out world wide and help them move forward their care into the 21st century.

In conclusion this was a very valuable study tour and I have felt privileged to visit many areas of midwifery and nursery care in China.

DEATHS

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It is with sadness that we announce the deaths of the following members of our Congregation and Parish ...

Mrs Christine Thomson, Waterstone House.

Miss Fiona Smith, Silverbank.

Mr James Moultrie, Formerly of Silverbank.

Mrs Mary Wilson, late of Raemoir Avenue.

Mrs Margaret McKenzie, 12 Dalvenie Gardens.

Mrs Florance McWilliam, Raemoir Avenue.

Mr William Davidson, c/o 56 Raemoir Avenue.

Mr Alan MacPherson, Banchory.

Mrs Margaret Ingram, Inchmarlo.

Mrs Margaret Ross, 10 Highfield Avenue.

Mr George Cranna, 6 Grant Road.

Mrs Sybil Barclay, 29 Pantoch Drive.

Christian Life and Work

For the last few weeks, we have been running the Christian Life and Work course. There have been two groups, a Ladies' Group on Monday evenings and a Men's Group on Wednesdays. The idea has been to see what the Bible says about living out our faith through work in differing environments. It is based around a series of six videos (called Monday, Tuesday, etc. to Saturday) and a typical session consists of about one third watching the video and about two thirds discussing it. It has been held in a relaxed setting and has been a lot of fun.

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CAROLS AND MULLED WINE

by Audrey Bowker

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2008 was the third year when East Church visited the new housing area in our parish to bring Christmas greetings in the form of carols, mulled wine/hot chocolate/shortbread and our Christmas Card. You should understand that when we say 'carols' - we don't actually sing carols; but we play them very loudly from a car stereo to provide a cheerful background! What we do is to knock on doors bringing our greetings, giving the church card and inviting people to come out to the car and enjoy a drink and a piece of shortbread with us. It has been just lovely to have people get their shoes and coats on and come out to meet us saying cheerily, 'We wondered if you would be coming this year'. Another joy this year was when some neighbours told us, 'It was when you came round last year that we met and spoke to each other for the first time', which was exactly our hope when we thought through what we should do. Naturally for those who can't come out, we offer to bring a cup to them. Every year we have had support from the Edge and a big thank you to Tony and Craig for organising this. But this year we were especially thankful to them and for them because I am sad to say that rather than supplement our East Church congregation, they were our main stay.

Next year we will be asking the congregation to sign up in advance to take part. As usual the date will be the last Saturday before Christmas, which will be 19th December. So mark off 4-6pm in your diary now and plan to be free to join in.

GUILD

by Margaret Thom

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We ended 2008 with a Christmas meal at 'The Loft' at Scott Skinner's. A very enjoyable meal was had by all who attended.

At our first meeting in January our guest speaker was Dr Mike Steven who gave us an enthralling talk about his trip to Nepal with Ben Fogle of the 'Extreme Dreams' television programme. Dr Steven also told us about his cycle run to Paris to raise funds for the Perlambu Preject. We presented a donation of £100 to the cause.

On the 28th January we had a joint meeting with our friends in the West Church Guild, where after a short presentation about 'Borderline', a charity helping Scottish homeless people in London, we were entertained by Bill & Marisha

Addison, pianist & vocalist, to an evening of songs and poetry. What a wonderful evening we had.



Forthcoming guest speakers will be talking about Christian Aid; our theme; and 'Carbon Footprints'.

On the 7th March some of our members attended the Theme Day at Mannofield.

We have our Annual Supper Rally at Ardoe House Hotel on Wednesday 6th May. Then it's off to Dundee on the 5th September to the Annual Meeting.

We extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us.

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SNIPPETS

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Stamps follow-up

In the last magazine we asked for your experiences in getting hold of religious Christmas stamps rather than the non-religious ones. I have had three lots of feedback both very reliable; both of them had real difficulty getting holding of the stamps showing the reason for the season. Although the Post Office claim they are not trying to phase them out, it's not sounding very convincing based on this feedback.

Biblegateway.com

Did you know that you can find full versions of the Bible on line? Just go to www.biblegateway.com. Invaluable if you want to print passages off or build them into other documents.

Everyclick.com

A reminder that if more people used everyclick.com for their internet searches we would raise more money for the church pain-free! We get about a penny a search. Currently only a 23 people have signed up but between them they have raised £200. Imagine how much a few hundred people could raise! See Nigel for details.

Voltaire's last words

Some people manage to come up with some memorable last words. It's particularly incredible when they think of them on the spur of what must be very difficult moments. So, hats off to Voltaire, the French writer, who when asked to renounce the devil said, "This is no time for making new enemies."

Men's Group Coffee Morning

The Men's Group Coffee Morning is on Saturday, 21st March. Note it in your diary!

THINKING DAY

CHURCH MAGAZINE



On 22nd February, we were delighted to host the Rainbows, Brownies and Guides for their Thinking Day service.

Church Development

As part of getting some ideas for what we might do in the next stage of developing our church buildings, we have been visiting other churches in the locality to see what they have done. We have been to six churches: Aboyne, Cults, Fetteresso, Holburn West, Peterculter, and Queen's Cross. These visits have given us food for thought and we are very grateful to Charles Robertson for organising them. Currently we are reviewing the consultations that we have undertaken in various ways over the last few years to develop a vision, based upon what we have seen, for how the church buildings can best serve Christ and the community over the next few years. Input is always welcome, so please feel free to talk to Nigel Bowker about it.

Meanwhile, John Montgomery has been asked by the Development Team to establish a prayer group for the development; please contact him if you want to participate.

BANCHORY EAST

SITUATION VACANT

Easter

30

2009

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WORKER

Flexible/Part-time/Salaried

Banchory Ternan East Church of Scotland

Our Children and Families ministry is growing and vibrant but we now have a vacancy for someone to take over the leadership and continue to inspire this work.

The role has three dimensions -

- Providing leadership for the children's worship/teaching programmes;
- Supporting and encouraging parents in the church family;
- Building bridges with community activities such as our Tom Toms and Mother and Toddler groups.

Experience of similar roles could be valuable, but is not essential. The primary requirements are vision and enthusiasm; the ability to make things happen; love for God and his family; and the ability to communicate lovingly and positively with all ages.

Interested or know someone who might be?

For more information, contact Audrey Bowker,
bowkeram@surf.free.co.uk Tel 01330 824060

CONGRATULATIONS

CHURCH MAGAZINE

We congratulate the following:-

Renewal of wedding vows:

Mary and Peter Soltyssek.

Blessings

Olivia Emma Humble.

Tobey Jack Ewen.

New Members

Mr Stan Thomson & Mrs Ray Thomson.

Mrs Julie Goddard.

Mr Neil and Mrs June Barclay.

Mr Martin Stewart & Mrs Louise Stewart.

90th Birthday

Nan Skinner

Bellfield

It looks like the replacement for Bellfield has been hit by the credit crunch. The Church of Scotland has put the move on hold for a while. However, the good news is that the Care Commission have said that the current Bellfield can keep running since plans for its replacement are in hand.

Grace Notes

In the Christmas edition, we had an article by David Welch describing the recording of a programme by the BBC. That has now been transmitted. It was part of "Phil Cunningham's Grace Notes". Congratulations to David and the team who took part.

CHURCH MAGAZINE

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of Scotland