



CHURCH MAGAZINE



Easter

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2011

BANCHORY EAST CHURCH

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch.org

BANCHORY EAST

PASTORAL LETTER

Easter

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MANY of us have heard, and perhaps even said, the phrase: “hope springs eternal” but I guess that, as we look around at what’s happening in our world or even in our own lives, many may well feel that hope seems to be in rather short supply. And who can blame them, what with news of ongoing recession, job losses, continuing bank and country bail-outs around the world, terrorism and natural disasters on a massive

scale. One is almost left wondering what the next bit of bad news is going to be. Indeed is there any good news around?

Well, Easter is the exciting reminder that our God has not left us to our own devices. And when people do their worst, God still gives us His best.

As we approach Easter we are reminded of this fact. In response to all the intrigue, betrayal, injustice and hatred displayed on Good Friday

we discover God’s response and final answer in the Empty Tomb and a Risen Christ on Easter day.

On Easter Day, all around the world, the words will echo: “Christ is Risen!” No greater words have ever been spoken. Behind them lie hope and restoration of fellowship with God, as we accept both Him and those words, by faith.

Not easy you may say, but here’s the thing - faith even had to be expressed by those who saw Christ following the Resurrection. Louis Cassels wrote: “No person hearing the story of the Resurrection can possibly be any more sceptical of



it than the apostles when they first heard about it. The record shows that Jesus had to go to great lengths to overcome their disbelief. He showed them his wounds; he ate a meal of cold fish and honeycomb, the only food at hand, to demonstrate to one diehard doubter that he wasn't a ghost."

That's the thing about faith; faith requires a modicum of doubt in order to be faith! (If you ever arrive at a place where all your doubts are gone and all your questions are answered, and you are 100% certain about everything, take a deep breath and relax because you've arrived in heaven).

The evidence of Jesus' life is profound, and the effects of his teachings are world-changing. But the thing that makes Christianity different is that it is based not just on the life and work of Jesus Christ, but on his death and resurrection. And if it was all a 'lie' as some claim, then why would so many of the early apostles die torturous deaths for something they knew to be false?

No – Christ IS Risen! And that is why he is worthy of our love, and devotion, and worship.

My prayer for all this year, is for a Hope filled Easter. And may God help each of us to hear the message of Easter so that in faith we can respond to the words – "Christ is Risen!" with the words – "He is Risen indeed!"

Until the next time – The Lord, bless you and keep you.

Your minister ...
Mary Haddow

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SNIPPETS

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4Cs

Our apologies to those concerned, this should have been in the Christmas edition.

The 4Cs (cards, crafts, coffee and cake) event on 5th November last year raised £462.50 for Kandy.

Better late than never!

Our hero

On December 10th we had water pouring down the height of the church tower and coming out at a light fitting in the vestibule. All seemed lost and then Mary published this on Facebook: "I take it all back ... apparently there is something that can be done ... Enter our hero Victor Skea ... who muscled his way up onto

the tower and cleared the snow and called on Lillian to bring hot water to melt the ice that was blocking the spouts ... Yeah Victor! Now we just have to wait for it to all dry out before we can turn on the lights or ring the bell."

Cheaper than a city-break

Want to see the Sistine Chapel without the expense of a holiday in Italy? Try this virtual tour: http://www.vatican.va/various/cappelle/sistina_vr/index.html

Spring Clean

Bonnie Banchory are planning another Spring Clean Up of the town on Sunday 8 May, 2-4 pm. This was a very successful event last year so we hope to get the numbers again this year. Look out for further details!

Next Magazine

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

CHRISTMAS PHOTO GALLERY

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The Raemoir Garden Centre have kindly given us (a very tall) artificial Christmas tree. Here we see Mary at work on assembling it. The tree we constructed is just two thirds of the total! We plan to do better next year.

Christmas gifts on sale
in aid of Kandy on 5th
December.



Hardy carol singers from
across the churches in
Scott Skinner Square on 18th
December. The photo doesn't do
credit to just how cold it was!

BANCHORY EAST

CHRISTMAS PHOTO GALLERY

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The children and youth educating us at the service on 19th December.

Lighting the advent candles for the final time on 2nd January.



Maths Revision

SO half of 3.65 is?



Banchory West Church *in the heart of the village*



Service for the Induction
of
The Rev Tony Stephen
at Banchory-Ternan West Parish Church
Thursday 17 March 2011 at 7pm



Worship led by the Rev Dr Fyle Blair
with the sermon by the Rev Dr Heather Peacock

AFTER a vacancy of over a year, Tony Stephen was installed as the new minister of Banchory West Church on 17th March. The photograph shows him signing the formula.

Annual Stated Meeting

AT THE Annual Stated Meeting on 27th March, Nina Smith and John Morrison stood down from the Congregational Board. We thank them both for their contributions. Margaret Scott and Fiona Banks were elected to the Board.

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SCOTS KIRK UPDATE

by Saman Perera

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SRI Lanka faced many challenges during 2010. As a church we had to respond to them in order to be faithful to God who has placed us here in Sri Lanka at this challenging period of our nation.

We live in a context of many problems. People live in pain and cry for help. People, mainly the poor, face many hardships with the escalating cost of living. Farmers are facing enormous hardships due to natural calamities and low prices for their produce.

While the poor are struggling, the rich, on the other hand, have plenty to satisfy their whims and fancies. Their extravagant lifestyles and lavish spending are no secret. The gap between the rich and the poor in Sri Lanka is one of the widest in the world.

Unless the plight of the poor is taken seriously and

meaningful steps taken for their upliftment, the country may have to face another violent uprising.

All Sri Lankans, especially the Christians, have great responsibility to make a positive contribution towards eradicating poverty.

The inter-religious tensions have also raised their ugly head once again with the invisible support of the political authorities. The activities of the Christian Church are restricted with numerous rules and regulations.

We thank God for the end of the disastrous conflict. In some of the visits we made to IDP's camps we heard the pathetic stories of the people. These people of all communities have gone through immense suffering. Their stories are painful to listen to. There is no hatred in them; they want

SCOTS KIRK UPDATE

to get on with life. All what they seek is security, trust and freedom of living.

Without partner support, we may not have been able to accomplish half the success we achieved in the field of outreach. Bonchory Ternan East Church pledge their support for the work at Pupurassa and their annual contribution will be approximately £1400.

Concern areas for further discussions and prayers are:

- The first Sunday and the second Sunday Tamil services are conducted with the help of a retired minister. We must identify someone who can develop the Tamil Ministry, for which there is good scope.
- There is good scope for developing the work at our mission locations but we are handicapped without

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the required number of workers and due to financial constraints.

- The majority of church families are underprivileged and do not have proper shelter, sanitation and in some cases their day today survival. In some cases, we need to intervene for dilapidated conditions of their housing too.
- I have completed five years as the minister in-charge of the Kandy Church. Pray for the plan of action to groom theological students or second line leaders who could take the responsibility.
- Pray for the 'Presbyterian Centre for Discipleship and Mission' where we envisage training our present and future leaders.

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CHRISTMAS

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ON 5th December we learned what Tony wears under his kilt - trousers!

The tartan is MacDonald. Tony explained that he could rationalise it by one route of his family history but in reality he chose it because he liked the tartan.

DURING one of our Christmas services, Tony used the following prayer, written by the church's children.

Dear God,

Thank you for sending Jesus to us.

Thank you for the snow and thank for our warm clothes and houses.

Thank you for our families close by and far away.

Thank you for Christmas.

Dear God

Thank you for giving us faithfulness and joy.

We thank you for food and water and peace.

God thank you for light and dark and presents.

We thank you for our pets.

Thank you for healing us when we are ill and have a cold.

Amen

PHOTO GALLERY

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Mary selected the theme of “Water, Water Everywhere” for the service on 9th January. It couldn’t have been more appropriate! A burst pipe in the church meant that we had to meet in the hall for several Sundays.

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The Christian Aid lunch on 25th March at the West Church raised £305.



Collecting a Bible from the back of the church blindfold - with a bit of help! - on 13th March



BANCHORY EAST

OH DEAR!

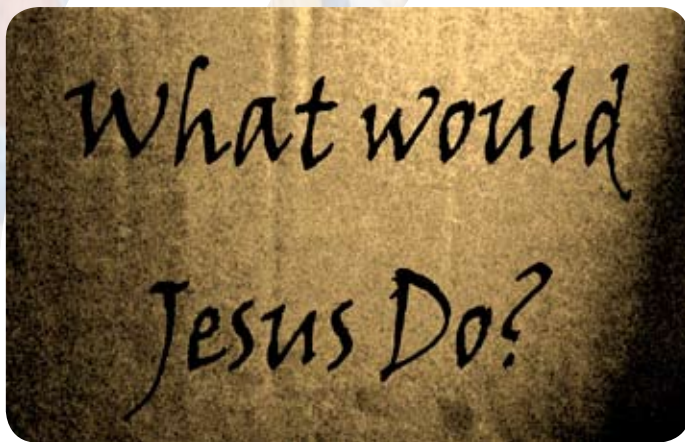
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THE light turned yellow, just in front of him. He did the right thing, stopping even though he could have beaten the red light by accelerating through the intersection. The person on his tail was furious and honked his horn, screaming in frustration, as he missed his chance to get through the intersection, dropping his mobile phone.

As he was still in mid-rant, he heard a tap on his window and looked up into the face of a very serious policeman. The policeman took him to the police station where he was searched, fingerprinted, photographed, DNA-swabbed and placed in a holding cell.



After a couple of hours, a policeman approached the cell and opened the door. He was escorted back to the booking desk where the arresting officer was waiting with his personal effects.

He said, "I'm very sorry for this mistake. You see, I pulled up behind your car while you were blowing your horn and screaming at the chap in front of you. I noticed the 'What Would Jesus Do' bumper sticker and the chrome-plated Christian fish emblem on the boot, so naturally... I assumed you had stolen the car."

SITUATION VACANT

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DO YOU FIT THE BILL?

IT is now just over 7 years since I took up the post of Gift Aid Convener, and I am now feeling that the time is right to pass the baton over to someone new. So, if you feel that you can meet the following, please feel free to speak to either myself or Dennis Boardman (Treasurer) to discuss your interest.

Computer literate – able to use Excel

Confidentiality – able to keep others' personal information private

Time – to deal with bank statements and prepare claims for Tax returns

Tax claims are prepared twice a year – once in January, covering the period from 6 April to 31 December and another claim at some point, during/after April to cover the period 1 January to 5 April. The spreadsheets and schedules that are used are all prepared, so there are sound templates to work from. There are several files that need to be kept, just in case HMRC decide to query any claims.

Fair to say that this isn't a "taxing" job, but it does require a time commitment, that has been additional to my full time employment, and that I am now seeking to pass on, to a willing volunteer.

Janice Innes
Gift Aid Convener

BANCHORY EAST

AGREEING A DATE FOR EASTER

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IT'S difficult enough to know when Easter is these days but imagine if there two dates for Easter each year! That's how things were for a time in Britain. During the 7th century Christianity in Britain existed in two forms, Celtic (based on the practices of Iona) and Roman. In the kingdom of Northumbria, the traditions coexisted, and each had been encouraged by different royal houses.

One of the main differences between the two traditions was the proper calculation of Easter. Early Christians had probably originally celebrated Easter concurrent with the Jewish Passover, which was held on the fourteenth day of the first lunar month of the Jewish year, called Nisan, the day of the crucifixion according to John 19:14. However, it came to be considered that Easter should be held on a Sunday, the day of the resurrection, and the First Council of Nicaea in 325 fixed the precise date for celebrating Easter. Calculating the proper date was a complex process, and different calculation tables developed which resulted in different dates for the celebration of Easter.

By the 660s, Ionan adherents were still using calculation tables that had been regarded as in error by Rome. The Ionan tables not only often resulted in a different date for the celebration of Easter, but they also allowed Easter to be celebrated on Nisan 14 if that were a Sunday, whereas Roman custom would have Easter moved to a different week in such a year.

The issue was therefore a question over the proper celebration

AGREEING A DATE FOR EASTER

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of the most significant Christian feast, and had resulted in visible disunity, even in the royal court. For instance, Queen Eanfled of Bernicia and her court observed Easter on a different day than did King Oswiu of Northumbria. While one royal faction was celebrating Easter, the other would still be fasting during Lent.

A synod was summoned in 664 at Whitby, presided over by King Oswiu. He would act as the final judge and would give his royal authority in support of one side or the other.



Whitby Abbey

After arguments from both sides, Oswiu declared his judgment in favour of the the Roman practice.

The Synod of Whitby established Roman practice as the norm in Northumbria, and thus brought the Northumbrian church into the mainstream of Roman culture. The

episcopal seat of Northumbria was transferred from Lindisfarne to York.

And that's why we celebrate Easter when we do!

BANCHORY EAST

THE AUTHORISED VERSION

Easter

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THIS year marks the 500th anniversary of the King James version of the Bible. This is how it happened.

James VI of Scotland became James I of England in 1603. One of the first things done by the new king was the calling of the Hampton Court Conference in January of 1604 “for the hearing, and for the determining, things pretended to be amiss in the church.” Bishops, clergymen, and professors, along with four Puritan divines, gathered to consider some complaints of the Puritans. Although Bible revision was not on the agenda, the Puritan president of Corpus Christi College, John Reynolds, “moved his Majesty, that there might be a new translation of the Bible, because those which were allowed in the reigns of Henry the eighth, and Edward the sixth, were corrupt and not answerable to the truth of the Original.”

Accordingly, a resolution came forth:

“That a translation be made of the whole Bible, as consonant as can be to the original Hebrew and Greek; and this to be set out and printed, without any marginal notes, and only to be used in all churches of England in time of divine service.”

The next step was the actual selection of the men who were to perform the work. In July of 1604, James wrote to Bishop Bancroft that he had “appointed certain learned men, to the number of four and fifty, for the translating of the Bible.” These men were the best biblical scholars and linguists of their day. Although fifty-four men were nominated, only forty-

THE AUTHORISED VERSION

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seven were known to have taken part in the work of translation. The translators were organized into six groups, and met at Westminster, Cambridge, and Oxford. Ten at Westminster were assigned Genesis to 2 Kings; seven had Romans to Jude. At Cambridge, eight worked on 1 Chronicles to Ecclesiastes, while seven others handled the Apocrypha. Oxford employed seven to translate Isaiah to Malachi; eight occupied themselves with the Gospels, Acts, and Revelation.

The work began to take shape in 1604 and progressed steadily.

They had a multitude of sources from which to draw from. Four years were spent on the preliminary translation by the six groups. The translators were exacting and particular in their work, as related in their preface:

“The conferences of each of the six being ended, nine months were spent at Stationers’ Hall in London for review and revision of the work by two men each from the Westminster, Cambridge, and Oxford companies. The final revision was then completed by Myles Smith and Thomas Bilson, with a preface supplied by Smith.”

The completed work was issued in 1611. The Authorized Version, as it came to be called, went through several editions and revisions.

One version became known as the Wicked Bible when the “not” was omitted from “Thou shalt not commit adultery.”!

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FINANCES

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A QUICK summary of last year's church finances is:

	2010	2009
Income		
Non Gift-Aided offerings	21,487	19,443
Gift-Aided offerings	62,549	59,803
Gift Aid reclaimed	16,968	16,166
Interest and dividends	437	462
Donations	150	270
Church, hall, car park rentals	7,986	7,376
Fundraising events	5,603	6,868
Funerals and weddings	3,420	4,155
Miscellaneous income	160	275
Total Income	118,760	114,818
Expenditure		
National Stipend Allocation	56,796	55,542
Presbytery Dues	1,150	1,095
Staff salaries and expenses	34,368	33,662
Fabric repairs	3,955	5,471
Heating and lighting	7,383	6,777
Council Tax	2,252	2,249
Insurance	4,374	4,379
Youth programme	3,270	3,270
Office expenses	4,093	3,189
Organ and piano	352	0
Church organisations	1,216	187
Miscellaneous	1,204	706
Total Expenditure	120,413	116,527
Net Expenditure	1,653	1,709

IT is small news that Tony Stephen is now Minister at the West Church and different arrangements have to be put in place for churches' Youth Programme in Banchory! It is probably news that, in the interim, Gavin Marshall has been offered and accepted the position of Youth Co-ordinator from 1st April (no joke!) Tony has committed to be actively involved in the Seattle visit during the summer, but otherwise Gavin will support the current volunteer team and ensure that the same quality youth work continues smoothly for the next few transition months. We are delighted that Gavin is able and willing to take on this work and we will all want to support and encourage him with our prayers.

Gavin has been closely involved with the youth programme for many years having grown up in Pitmachie House (Pitmachie Cottage has been Tony's office and the base for the youth programme for many years and his mother, Mary, has been a volunteer in the youth work for many many years.)

The Youth Management team (which includes ministers, elders, volunteers and young people) and the Kirk Sessions of the East and West Churches will now plan and prepare for the long-term future of the youth programme, and would value your prayers in their deliberations. This is obviously an exciting time for reflection and also opportunity for us as both Tony and also Bill Stone vacate their positions in close succession.

BANCHORY EAST

THOUGHTS NEEDED!

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THE

THE Kirk has established a Special Commission on the Purposes of Economic Activity. They have asked for people to address the following questions:

- 1 How can the Church best offer Scottish society a new vision of what might be achievable in the economic, social and community life of the nation?
- 2 How can the Church, at local and national level, be encouraged to become more engaged in transformative economics?
- 3 How can quality of life, well being and values, such as justice, cohesion and sustainability become the measures for economic activity?
- 4 How should inequality be addressed, ensuring that appropriate levels of choice are available to all?
- 5 What changes in peoples' attitudes and beliefs toward the economy might be desirable?

Interested? Answers to: Fiona Brown, Administrator (Economics Commission), Church of Scotland, 121 George St, Edinburgh EH2 4YN. E-mail: fbrown@cofscotland.org.uk

Palm Sunday Praise

ON SUNDAY 17th April there will be a service of Palm Sunday Praise led by the Salvation Army Aberdeen Citadel Band in the East Church at 3.15pm. This will be followed by refreshments. This service will be open to all.

A MOTHERS DAY CREED

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ALTHOUGH the magazine has come out after Mothers Day, we can't help printing this Mothers Day creed that we came across:

I believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, who was born of the promise to a virgin named Mary.

I believe in the love Mary gave her Son, that caused her to follow him in his ministry and stand by his cross as he died.

I believe in the love of all mothers, and its importance in the lives of the children they bear.

It is stronger than steel, softer than down, and more resilient than a green sapling on the hillside.

It closes wounds, melts disappointments, and enables the weakest child to stand tall and straight in the fields of adversity.

I believe that this love, even at its best, is only the shadow love of God, a dark reflection of all that we expect of him in this life and the next.

And I believe that one of the most beautiful sights in the world is a mother who lets this greater love flow through her to her child, blessing the world with the tenderness of her touch and the tears of her joy.

Thank God for mothers, and thank mothers for helping us understand God!

(Rev. Jan Croucher. Preached at Heathmont Baptist Church, Victoria, Australia, May 12 1996).

ROLL AWAY THE STONE

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2011

A Special Event for the whole Church
in Princes Street Gardens on Sunday May 22, 2011, 1pm - 6pm

Roll Away the Stone

Celebrating the Life of the Church

Easter Play Scenes

Storytelling

Massed Choirs

Church Stories

Fischy Music

5-a-side football

Interviews

Youth and Kids

Picnic

Comedy

Puppets

Discussion

Bands

Orchestra

- Celebration
- Inspiration
- Discovery



www.rollawaythestone.org.uk

For more information contact: Principal Clerk's Office, 0131 225 5722



The Church of Scotland

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Scottish Charity Number SC0 11353

ROLL AWAY THE STONE

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A Special Event for the whole Church



Roll Away the Stone

in Princes Street Gardens on Sunday May 22, 2011, 1pm -6pm

**How
can we
take part?**



- **Celebration**
- **Inspiration**
- **Discovery**

Simply come along - it's free!

Come yourself, or better still bring others from your congregation, friends and family. Make it a church outing in the beautiful setting of Princes Street Gardens. If you're coming from a distance, then make a day of it and join with local Edinburgh churches who are ready to welcome you for morning worship before all heading along to the park. See the website for times of city centre church services.

If you're thinking of coming along then why not register your interest on our website? You'll get updates as we get nearer the event and we'll have the encouragement of knowing you're coming!

Other ways to take part:

MUSIC

Does your church have a choir, or singing group? We're organising a massed choir to sing as the culmination of our day and you can take part. Simply register on our website, and in the weeks to come you'll be sent some music to practice, and there will be a short rehearsal on the day with all the participating churches before you lead us in worship around 5.00pm. It's going to sound terrific!

5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL

Join us in a national football tournament. We'd like to invite junior and senior 5-a-side teams from your church to take part in regional heats around the country finishing up with the finals being played in the park, at this special church event. We've got special permission to play football in the park, so this is an opportunity not to be missed! If you're interested then register at our website and we'll send out some more information soon.

www.rollawaythestone.org.uk

CLAN DEESIDE

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JOIN US on 29th & 30th April at Banchory Academy when we will be equipping and releasing the churches of Deeside in renewal and mission. Our main speakers will be Andy Hall and Kevin Peat. Times of worship will be led by David Ross.

Andy Hall's ministry involves conducting seminars, conferences, church weekends and other training events; as well as direct



evangelistic activity.

Alongside this he is facilitating and involved in networking groups looking at new ways of reaching communities. Another facet of the ministry involves long term consultancy work with Churches seeking to

move into renewal and evangelism.

Kevin Peat has a heart for seeing the leaders who minister under his care move towards wholeness so that they can minister more effectively to others.

Whole Weekend Ticket - £25

Friday Evening Ticket - £10

Saturday Day Ticket - £15

Saturday Evening Ticket - £10

Book online at clangathering.org.uk to receive a 5% discount on all ticket prices.

THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!

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Crathes Primary School P4s - P7s entertaining the diners at the Friendship Lunch on 24th March.

BANCHORY EAST

CHURCH CALENDAR

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APRIL		
10th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
14th	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
17th	10.30 am	Palm Sunday. Morning Worship
	3.15 pm	Palm Sunday Praise
18th	10.30 am	Morning Service at the West Church
	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
19th	10.30 am	Morning Service at the West Church
20th	10.30 am	Morning Service at the West Church
21st	7.30 pm	Maundy Thursday Service at the West Church
22nd	7.30 am	Good Friday. Walk with the Cross. Starts East Church
	7.30 pm	Evening Service
24th	9.00 am	Easter Day. Service at the Platties
	10.30 am	Morning Worship
28th	12 noon	Friendship Lunch
29th		CLAN Deeside
30th		CLAN Deeside

CHURCH CALENDAR

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MAY		
1st	10.30 am	Morning Worship
8th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
9th	10.30 am	Congregational Board
15th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
20th	10 - 2 pm	Christian Aid Centre - West Church
	9 - 5 pm	Christian Aid Collection at Morrisons
21st	10 - 2 pm	Christian Aid Centre - West Church
	9 - 5 pm	Christian Aid Collection at Morrisons
21st	10 - 12 noon	Christian Aid High Street of Coins
22nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
29th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
30th	4 pm	Messy Church
JUNE		
5th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
12th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
13th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
19th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
20th	4 pm	Messy Church
26th	10.30 am	Morning Worship

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LOOK FAMILIAR?

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We are indebted to Muriel and David Welch for this photo of Udney Church, another one designed by the architect of our own dear kirk.

Christian Aid Week

PLANS for CA Week are coming together. The key dates are:

Sunday 15th May: Church Service.

Friday/ Saturday 20th/21st May: Christian Aid Centre in the West Church, 10am till 2pm. Also collections outside Morrison's on the same days, 9 am - 5 pm. Volunteers needed!.

Saturday 21st May: 'High Street of Coins', 10 am - 12 noon.

More news soon.

Let's make it a great CA Week!

DEATHS

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

Mr Robert Duguid, formerly of Durriss

Mr Ernie Cranna, St Duthac Crescent

Mr John Anderson, Lumphanan

Mrs Margaret Hinds, Pitmurchie, formerly of Banchory

Mrs Joan Black, Silverbank Gardens

Mrs Angela Murray, formerly of Banchory

Mr David Ewen, 29 Raemoir Avenue

Mrs Maureen Aitken, 50 Woodside Road

Mrs Jane Mcvey, Pinefield, Inchmarlo

Mr William Aiken, Hillview Road

Mrs Flora Christie, Inchmarlo

Mr George Ewen, Bellfield



On 23rd January, The Guild held a soup lunch after the morning service to raise money for the Guild's national HIV/AIDS Project. The lunch raised £323.

BANCHORY EAST

MEN'S GROUP COFFEE MORNING

Easter

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Banchory Ternan East Church Men's Group

COFFEE MORNING

in
EAST CHURCH HALL

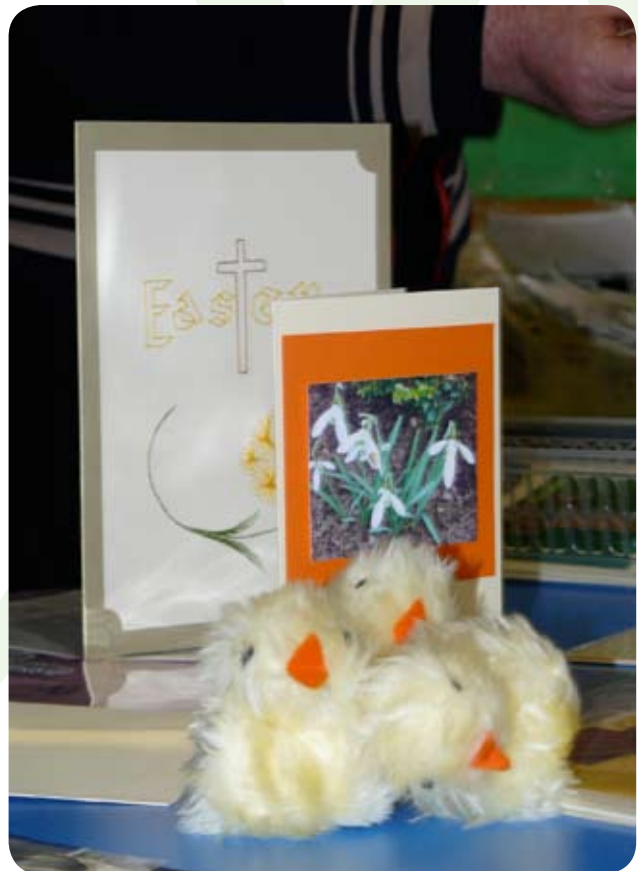
on
SATURDAY, 19 MARCH 2011
at 10 a.m.

+ Baking and Veg Stalls +
+ Books and Brick a Brac +

Ticket £3 (available from members or at door)



The Men's Group Coffee Morning made £420 on the day and added a donation of £80 from their Group funds to send £500 to Presbytery for the Christchurch appeal.



GUILD

by Margaret Thom

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THE Guild and The Men's group enjoyed a christmas meal together in the Church hall. Entertainment was provided by both groups.

We have had talks on 'Midwifery in China' by Mary Black; Sharon Zeigler told us about her family welcoming a Chinese girl to their family and adopting her, we then had a very interesting talk from Audrey Mooney, Scottish Prison Services Governor of H.M.Prison Aberdeen. Another enthralling speaker was Ahmed Gelik, who spoke about his views on his Islamic Faith.

We have had a musical evening by our own church choir. To close Nigel

Bowker gave us a talk on Peru.

We held a Souper Sunday in January and raised £323 for the HIV/Aids Project (see also previous page).

We are holding a Rally at Fetteresso Church Stonehaven in May then at the end of August some Guild members will be travelling to Dundee for the Annual Meeting.

Margaret Thom

President

Tel 824134



BANCHORY EAST

SNIPPETS

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Jumble Sale

The next Jumble Sale will be held on 24th September. Start saving your jumble!

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Presbytery

The position of Minister at both Drumoak-Durris and Mid-Deeside Churches are being advertised. Meanwhile Jack Holt is leaving Birse and Feughside for the post of Minister at Polwarth Church in Edinburgh.

2011

Christmas Stamps

We asked for your experiences with Christmas stamps last year. Well, your editor can advise that he bought some stamps at Raemoir Garden Centre and without asking was automatically given the “religious” ones. Well done, RGC! Another member of the congregation reported that they asked for the religious stamps at the post office on the High Street and received them without any problem.

Getting Home for Christmas

There are a lot of dramatic travel stories from last Christmas. The one that caught our imagination was Caitlin whose return to Banchory for the festive season was an early (and complete surprise) Christmas present for her mum. As if that wasn't dramatic enough, it took her 44 hours to get from Calgary to Banchory including two BA flights which had to return to London (one after circling Aberdeen for over an hour!). It's good to be home ...

Recycling Printer Cartridges

Are you binning printer cartridges and feeling guilty about it? If so, you can recycle them for free. Just email info@EmptiesPlease.com and ask them to send you some pre-paid envelopes. Unfortunately they can't recycle Brother or Epson cartridges.

New Year Resolutions

Anyone who made a New Year

resolution and is willing to share it with us (and even how you are getting on with it), please contact us.

Welcome Back

We welcome our former rookie Tom Spencer back for a repeat appearance (he must be a sucker for punishment ...). Tom will be working alongside Helena as joint rookies for the rest of the year.

Men's Breakfast

The Banchory Christians Together Men's Breakfast on 21st January was timed to coincide with the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and so considered the matter of Christian unity. 17 people attended which was about as many as we could fit in the room provided! There was a lot of discussion over what makes for unity and indeed for division. We were reminded of the statement that the Romans made of the Christians in their midst: "See how they love each other!"

If anyone wants to attend these

breakfasts, Nigel Bowker can provide details.

Rhubarb, rhubarb!

If anyone has a surfeit of rhubarb in their garden this year, the Friendship Lunch Group would be happy to have it to freeze and use next session.

Photos

Mary got a new camera for Christmas and decided that she would take and publish a photo every day this year. They can be found on <http://2011inpictures.posterous.com>.

Thanks!

Elma and Douglas Ogg would like to thank everyone for their messages of support during Elma's recent operation.

Christchurch

We collected £440 for support of the clergy in Christchurch, New Zealand, at the two retiral offerings on 13th March.

SCOTLAND has a proud record of striving to be a responsible nation. Christian Aid Scotland believes that the next Scottish Government should continue to demonstrate that it is prepared to tackle both the symptoms of global poverty and the structural causes that keep people poor.

The Scottish elections in May 2011 give us the opportunity to ensure Scotland makes its full contribution towards the effort required to move the world towards one in which everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

What we're calling for:

1. Maintain Scotland's position as a world leader on climate change.
2. Support climate justice.
3. Support greater financial transparency.
4. Support peace between Israel and occupied Palestinian territory.
5. Make Scotland a responsible nation.

CONGRATULATIONS

CHURCH MAGAZINE



Congratulations to Louise Littlejohn and Matthew Foster on their marriage on 12th February.

Congratulations to Burnett & Mamie Merchant who celebrated their 60th Diamond Wedding anniversary on 16th March.

And to Bill Stone and Hayley O'Connor who will be getting married on 4th July.

Banchory Christian Fellowship Church celebrated its opening on 26th March.



*Banchory Christian
Fellowship Church*

*Opening Service
of Dedication and
Thanksgiving*

Saturday 26th March 2011

CHURCH MAGAZINE

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