



CHURCH MAGAZINE

Summer

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2008

Summer services

begin 6th July

10.30 am

Wish you

were here!



A

Post Card

from

The Holy Land

Place
Postage
Here

BANCHORY EAST CHURCH

Our Mission

To know Christ and make Him known

www.banchoryeastchurch.org

BANCHORY EAST

PASTORAL LETTER

Summer

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2008

One Monday morning I had 40 children aged 5-7 years from a local school in the church. I was telling them what the church was about.

How it wasn't just the building but the people that made the church. The people were the church. And we had a special story to share. At the end of the visit, one wee boy exclaimed, "This is

my Church!" When one of his classmates claimed that this was their Church too, he responded with a gentle but firm, "Well, I don't see you here every week."

During our services over the past couple of months we have thought about how the Church is only one generation away from extinction. If it does not pass the message of Christ on to the next generation, if it does



not scatter the seeds of faith, it will die. Therefore it is the responsibility and privilege of every member to be involved in some way; we all have a vital role to play. Some say "that

is the minister's job", but consider this piece of recent information shared by the Church of Scotland: "There is currently a shortfall of 13% in the number of ministers. 20% of those currently in post are due to retire in the next five years and the level of recruitment is

nowhere near matching that. These figures do not take into account regional differences, however - rural communities have a greater shortage. In Caithness, in the far north of mainland Scotland, more than half the churches have long-term vacancies. By the end of the year there will only be three ministers and one deacon to cover 12 posts."

It has never just been the minister's job, it has always been the church's

PASTORAL LETTER

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job, and the church is not the building, it is the people.

Over the past couple of months we have thought about how God still talks to his people, and how we might hear what he is calling us to do as his church, in this place, at this time.

A couple of weeks ago we began to consider what we know about God, about Christ, that makes him worth sharing with others, by asking the question, “How big is your God?” and recognising that sometimes we make our God small by not speaking of him, by not worshiping him, by ignoring him, by not turning to him. When in actual fact our God is so big, that he is bigger than our weaknesses, our worries, our fears, our doubts, our suffering, our guilt, and more than able to walk with us, and guide us through life, if we would only let him. Now that is worth knowing and worth sharing.

Our church’s mission statement is: To know Christ, and to make him known.

Our seeds of faith are worth scattering, and it’s up to each of us.

For three years he had been planting seed. He had scattered seed in all types of soil. He had taught with compassion. He had taught with courage and boldness. He had taught with respect. He had taught with gentleness. He had taught with love. He had taught as a servant.

They were listening but were not hearing. They saw what He did, but somehow managed to miss the point behind the action. The message was delivered, but not completely received. They heard what they wanted to hear, and what they thought they were supposed to hear, but they did not hear what they should have heard.

For three years He had been telling them, “A time is coming

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BANCHORY EAST

KÁNTUS CHOIR

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**The choir in
full sing.**

On April 25th, we welcomed the Kantus Choir from Hungary. The concert was spectacular, covering a range of music, all of which was enthusiastically received by the audience.

£517.87 was raised from the concert. This will be used to cover the choir's expenses and and for the Great Church in Debrecen's work with the homeless.

The Banchory churches worked together to bring this wonderful choir to our town.

(PS - We have just heard that the tour raised £1,600 for the work with the homeless)

**Rev Jock
Stein, who
accompanied the
choir.**



KÁNTUS CHOIR

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**The Pastor,
Zsigmond
Gyorgy Vad.**



**The conductor and
his wife, with their
hostess, Audrey
Bowker.**



**The Choir in “civvies”
the following day.**

Some of the photos were provided by Janos Laszlo Feher, a Hungarian residing in Aboyme, to whom we are very grateful.



BANCHORY EAST

SNIPPETS

Summer

Men's Group Coffee Morning
raised a fabulous £515.

Transport to Church

If you need a lift to church,
please phone the Church
Secretary before 1.00 pm the
Friday before the service.

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2008

Community Awareness

Are you aware of an event
coming up where the church
should be involved? If so, then
please call Stephen Black on
823977 so that we can see
what we can do.

Songs of Praise

Sunday 15th June. Bellfield Park.
3 pm. This is being organised by
the Christian Aid group as part
of the St Ternan Fair. The Bon-
Accord Brass Band is leading the
praise (with a contribution by the
Youth Band) so please support
this venture and raise your voices
in well-known hymns.

(P.S. Keep your fingers crossed for
a sunny afternoon!)

Everclick.com. We've had our
first payment from everclick.com.
Many thanks to those who use it
as their internet search engine to
support the church. Nigel Bowker
can give you more details.



Stephen Hadow
had a birthday of
undefined magnitude
on or around April
6th. He's seen here
with his birthday
present!

REAL FAMILIES, RESILIENT CHILDREN

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Question: Where does God raise Children who love and know him? Answer: In Real Families

The church family has an important responsibility to love and nurture children in the faith – but the single most important place that shapes the hearts and souls and strength of children to love God is not a place at all – it is a family. Remember even after Jesus at 12 impressed the Temple teachers in his “Father’s house”, he went home with Joseph and Mary, was obedient to them, and grew in wisdom and favour with God and people.

God is calling real people like us, who need to be restored in Jesus Christ, to love, embrace, encourage and challenge real families – not religiously perfect families – real families.

God’s dream is for real families to be the workshop where his hands shape the heart, soul and strength of resilient children.

Resilient Children love God with their whole hearts – which means that their mind, emotions and will are fully and vibrantly engaged with all of life because all of life can be lived and experienced and offered in delight to God.

Resilient Children love God with expansive souls – imaginative, creative, integrated souls – souls that with curiosity and courage pursue those realities that cannot be seen – souls energized by faith and hope.

Resilient Children love God with their whole body – they are confident and playful in their bodies, taking great delight and pleasure in the physical world as a gift from God.

Resilient children recover from the damage that life can

BANCHORY EAST

REAL FAMILIES, RESILIENT CHILDREN (continued)

Summer

do to their hearts, their souls and their bodies.

Resilient Children know God's love for them, and they love God right back.

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Our Mission:

Encouraging Real Families – Raising Resilient Children

2008

We have been given two very powerful gifts to participate with God in his dream of raising resilient Children.

Gift #1: Real Relationships. We've been given Jesus – God in human flesh – who wants a real relationship with us. God came in person to be with us – and God wants us to love parents and their Children in person.

Gift #2: A Bible full of Real Stories. We've been given the Scriptures, which are full of stories. We believe that God uses stories to re-integrate our whole hearts and souls and bodies in love of him, so we're going to focus much more on stories in our teaching and activities with children.

News From “The Tent”: Making Room for Children: “Godly Praise” in the Tent every Sunday

Our first aim in this new mission was to create a dedicated space for children to worship when they continue through to the halls, to (*Drum roll please*) The Tent! Thanks to everyone who helped to redecorate and re-

REAL FAMILIES, RESILIENT CHILDREN (continued)

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organize “The Tent” – our dedicated room in the church hall where children and leaders continue worship after leaving the service.

And what do we do in The Tent? Well, we worship, using an approach that we call “Godly Praise”.



Building units for the tent

We follow the same order of reformed worship as the adult service: Welcome, Call to Worship, God’s Word, Our Response to the Word, and Benediction.

Storytelling is an important part of Godly Praise. We spend a lot of time telling the stories, using small wooden figures – and a lot of time in the circle wondering about the stories. In June, our stories are about the life of Jesus. In the Autumn, we will begin the stories of God’s family in the Old Testament.

Children know that The Tent is a special place where we meet with God. After our Call to Worship and Praise in the big service with the adults, the children and leaders continue through to their worship time in The Tent.

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

Summer

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On 12th December 1949, the following letter was sent to us by the Law Department at 12 George Street:

“I have to inform you that the Teind Roll of this Parish was declared final by Interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary dated 25th November 1949.

“The total stipend as brought out therein amounts to £271:9:1; but this amount includes two sums exceeding 12/- but not exceeding £1 amounting in all to £1:6:- which fall to be redeemed by the heritors concerned in terms of Section 14 of the Church of Scotland (Property and Endowments) Act, 1925.”

If anyone can provide a translation of this apparent gobble di gook, we will be delighted to receive it!

FRIENDS OF BELLFIELD

New members of the Friends of Bellfield are urgently needed. Anyone interested should contact Janice Grubb, The Unit Manager, at Bellfield on 822692.

JUMBLE SALE

The Church Jumble Sale will be on Saturday 11th October. Please note this date in your diary and start collecting jumble!

Make, Share and Learn Crafting

On a Tuesday afternoon. For more information, please contact Johanna Bell on 824555.

Melissa
Reekie at the
Edge/Rock
weekend in
March 2008



FINANCES

Offerings to 1st May are:-

	2008	2007
Plate	3,960	4,201
Freewill offerings (not gift-aided)	3,300	3,815
Freewill offerings (gift-aided)	5,418	4,961
Other gift-aided donations	17,356	19,175
TOTALS	30,034	32,152

So offerings are down by about 6.6% over the same period last year. Please consider prayerfully your response to this.

BANCHORY EAST

KANDY

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2008

On a very wintry Sunday in April we had the pleasure of welcoming Joy Allan and Eleanor MacDonald of St. Margaret's Church, Glenrothes to our morning service. They visited Kandy in January this year and were invited to share their experience with us. St. Margaret's have had a 10 year association with the Scot's Kirk.



Eleanor MacDonald

done by Pearl Stephen and her co workers in the Women's Development Centre and the work being done at the Kandy City Mission which generates income to maintain the ministry team and upkeep of the church property.

Despite the cold day and our numbers consequently being considerably reduced, we enjoyed warm fellowship with our visitors which continued over lunch. They were heartened by the welcome and encouraged by our continuing commitment to supporting our fellow Christians in their endeavour to go out and spread the Good News of Salvation in Jesus Christ

They gave a very informative talk which opened our understanding of the outreach undertaken by faithful Christians led by Rev Saman Perera and his team in the Scot's Kirk. We also received a valued insight into the work being

and to serve their Master in difficult circumstances.

The last communication from Saman again mentioned the obstructions they were encountering from the Temple authorities and village elders who feel threatened by the prospect of a Church being erected in their village. Saman and the Church Board have resolved this by deciding to build a private house with a big enough room to use for community work and for worship. The accommodation will be for the use of the evangelist and his family. We've recently heard that permission has been granted. An answer to prayer!!

A retiring collection following the service raised £216. We continue to collect funds by making greeting cards and bags to sell. This has been well supported by our congregation and another £200 has been raised. The Men's Group have donated £300 and the Guild £50. The Kandy Fund currently stands at £2,325. All this is much appreciated and will be sent to Kandy once it is established where the greatest need is.



Joy Allan

**BANCHORY
EAST**

**BAN THE
BAG!**

Summer

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Care for Creation: **BRING YOUR OWN**

**TAKE A REUSABLE BAG WITH YOU
SAY NO TO A PLASTIC CARRIER BAG**



The shopkeepers of Banchory are working together to reduce dramatically the use of single-use plastic carrier bags in the town.

Help!

**Support
Banchory bags Campaign**

TONY AT HOLYROOD

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Tony Stephen led MSPs in their Time of Reflection at Holyrood in May. He had been nominated by our MSP, Mike Rumbles.

Pastoral Letter (continued)
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 his followers they were difficult words to understand because when they thought of a leader their visions were of power, empires, and places of honour. He had images of humility, service, and gentleness.

For three years He planted seed.

And today over 2000 years

later, his church continues to do the same.

Week by week; Monday by Monday, Tuesday by Tuesday, Wednesday by Wednesday, Thursday by Thursday, Friday by Friday, Saturday by Saturday, we should be scattering seeds, and on a Sunday we should come together to have them replenished.

“The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

(Matthew 9:37-38)

The Lord bless you and keep you.

BANCHORY EAST

FLOWERS

Summer

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2008

FLOWER DONATION ROTA

6 Jul	Vacancy
13 Jul	Vacancy
20 Jul	Wedding flowers
27 Jul	Lillian and Anna Farquhar
3 Aug	Vacancy
10 Aug	Wedding flowers
17 Aug	Margaret Duncan
24 Aug	Lesley Grant
31 Aug	Vacancy

FLOWER DISTRIBUTION ROTA

22 Jun	Sheila McLean
29 Jun	Rosemary Harrison
6 Jul	Lisa Barclay
13 Jul	Pat Bell
20 Jul	Barbara Youngson
27 Jul	Melanie Stewart-Wills
3 Aug	Janice Innes
10 Aug	Joan Burn
17 Aug	Liz Reekie
24 Aug	Helen Carberry
31 Aug	Audrey Bowker



CHRISTIAN AID

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A big “THANK YOU” to everyone who worked hard in Christian Aid Week. It was good getting to know each other better whilst raising money for CA’s important work. At present over £6,000 has been raised, but yet more has still to be added to the total.

What’s happening to the money? As well as the usual schemes of development in poor countries and the campaigns for fairer trading and the cutting of carbon footprints, CA is presently sending much needed supplies to relief camps in the Irrawaddy Delta of Burma: food, water, shelter, medicines, etc. for thousands of people. They have also sent medical teams to help with the situation of 15,000 orphans in the 2 largest towns, and the setting up of kindergartens there.

CA has also sent \$50,000 to help in relief measures after the massive earthquake in the Sichuan Province of China. It is also involved in Preventing Disaster funding to ensure the most vulnerable members of society are better able to cope with floods, hurricanes and earthquakes.



Bob Kelley in the East Church as he stands down as Chairman of the Banchory Christian Aid Committee.

BANCHORY EAST

REAL FAMILIES, RESILIENT CHILDREN (continued)

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Children are encouraged to do their own work with the story – either through making something with their hands, or retelling the stories using the figures.

We finish with a feast – the combination of healthy food, thanks to God, and prayer together.

Our Godly Praise team leaders are: Rachel Mair, Una Montgomery, Cath Scott, Rachel Scott and Laurie Wheeler. Jackie Wilson dedicated her energies this spring to the massive “behind the scenes” operations in assembling the materials for Godly Praise – thanks Jackie!

Now that we have a space and a way to worship in that space, we want to be more intentional about the specific ages and stages of our children. Our hope and prayer is to begin in the autumn with 4 teams of leaders who are dedicated to specific age ranges on a Sunday morning:

- The Crèche & Nursery: creating a safe and loving place for children from infancy to 4 years old.
- P1 to P4: Godly Praise is ideal for this age group.
- P5 to P7: Older children also participate in Godly Praise with more advanced work, and more intentional adult relationships.
- Secondary: Audrey Bowker and Martin Hall have been leading our Secondary School students. They focus more on creative initiative from the students in their Bible study, and mentoring relationships with adult leaders.

REAL FAMILIES, RESILIENT CHILDREN (continued)

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Please prayerfully ask God if you are being called to join our children's team – to build relationships with children and creatively involve them in the stories in the Bible.

Remember – we aren't looking for experts! We're looking for real people, willing to invest their prayer and their time in loving real families and investing in resilient Children.



Dates for your diary:

Tidying cupboards

22 June – Banchory Churches Summer Picnic, Bellfield Park. Come and join friends from all the churches in Banchory for a picnic to celebrate the start of summer. Meet at 1 pm in the Bellfield Park behind the Guide Lodge.

29 June – Sundaes Sunday!! Our tradition of celebrating the end of the school year with a MASSIVELY LONG Ice Cream Sundae continues on the 29 June – immediately after worship in the church halls. Bring a long spoon!

11 – 15 August – Holiday Club: see page 27.

BANCHORY EAST

CHURCH CALENDAR

Summer

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JUNE		
15th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	3.00 pm	Songs of Parise, Bellfield Park
22nd	10.30 am	Morning Worship
	1.00 pm	Picnic - see page 19
29th	10.30 am	Morning Worship followed by Sundae Sunday
JULY		
6th	10.30 am	Summer Service
13th	10.30 am	Summer Service
20th	10.30 am	Summer Service
27th	10.30 am	Summer Service
AUGUST		
3rd	10.30 am	Summer Service
10th	10.30 am	Summer Service
11 - 15th		Holiday Club
11th	7.30 pm	Congregational Board
17th	10.30 am	Summer Service
		Picnic - see page 22
24th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
31st	10.30 am	Morning Worship
SEPTEMBER		
1st	7.30 pm	Kirk Session
7th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
8th	7.30 pm	Congregational Board
14th	10.30 am	Communion
	6.30 pm	Communion
21st	10.30 am	Morning Worship
28th	10.30 am	Morning Worship
OCTOBER		
11th	10 am	Jumble Sale



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Calling all Taxpayers.....

You'll be pleased to know this appeal does not come from the Revenue! However, if you are a taxpayer, you are "wanted" by the Church.....or at least your signature is! Through the Gift Aid Scheme, the Government refunds tax to the Church. The rebate is crucial to the Church and quite honestly, our Church would not survive without it.

Therefore, this is an appeal to those who pay tax to register with the Gift Aid Scheme. There's no extra cost to you, all you have to do is to sign a Gift Aid declaration and to be prepared to gift your offerings through either envelopes or bank direct debit, so that the tax can be claimed back. For example, if you give £10 a month, which is £120 a year, the Church is able to make this gift worth £153.84, simply by claiming the tax back on the donation..... and all because you signed a piece of paper! This is such a worthwhile option so please give it your prayerful consideration.

GIFT AID DECLARATION FORMS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH VESTIBULE OR CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE TREASURER (Dennis Boardman) OR THE GIFT AID CONVENER (Janice Innes). Please feel free to contact either of us if you wish to discuss this Scheme more fully.

Janice Innes - Gift Aid Convener

Next Magazine

Contributions to Nigel Bowker by 15th August, please.

e-mail: nigel@blackhallconsulting.co.uk

BANCHORY EAST

(Continued page 22)

REAL FAMILIES, RESILIENT CHILDREN (concluded)

Summer

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Tent painting

17 August
– Summer
Celebration Picnic.
To celebrate
Holiday Club
we'll have our very
own “Champion's
Challenge” church
picnic – complete
with all those delightfully

silly

games and prizes that church picnics around the world are famous for. Save that Sunday now – this is a great time to celebrate our children and welcome new families.

Church of Scotland National Youth Assembly

“How do we live well in a world of rapid change?” ~What are the constants we can hold on to?” These and other questions will be considered at this popular event for people aged between 16 and 25 on 7-10 September at the Apex City Quay Hotel, Dundee. We will be represented by Caitlin Marno and Aaron Hagan.

(I wanted to go - can't think why I wasn't allowed - Ed.)

DEATHS

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

Mr Douglas Rennie, Drumoak

Mrs Margaret Begg, 4 Heath Row, Banchory

Mrs Elizabeth Gill, Dalvenie Gardens, Banchory

Mr James Smith, Auchattie

Mr Gordon Davidson, 117 Raemoir Avenue, Banchory

Mrs Peggy Duncan formally of Banchory

Mr Richard Hotchkiss, Pitmurchie, formally St Nicholas Road, Banchory

Mrs Ann Kellas, 27 Queen Victoria Park, Inchmarlo

Mrs Phyllis Kelman, Banchory

Mrs Hazel Angus, Dalvenie Gardens, Banchory

Mr George Reekie, Birchdale, Raemoir Road, Banchory

Mrs Janet Kellighan, 61 Raemoir Avenue, Banchory

Mrs Olive Maxwell, 2 Bridgend Cottages, Glassel

Mr James Smith, Ramsay Road, Banchory

Mr John Cadoo, 33 St Nicholas Crescent, Banchory

Mrs Elizabeth Lawson, 33 Highwood, Banchory

Mr Stanley Leslie, 53 Highwood, Banchory

Mr Edward Lawson, 33 Highwood, Banchory

Archive

We want to build an electronic archive of materials relating to the East Church's history. If you have anything of interest that we can take a copy of, please contact Nigel Bowker.

BANCHORY EAST

SCOLTY GROUP

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The Scolty Group has been on the go for a few years. and play at Bellfield, Dalvenie Gardens and Glen o Dee (Scolty Ward) once a month and on request at Hanover Court, Banchory Primary (Senior Citizens), Bonty Court, etc.

The musicians in the group include Margaret Smith, Pat Thain, Jan Kostulin (Glassel), Sandy Cooper, Alastair Forbes, Dick Clubb and Duncan

Menzies. They enjoy bringing a bit of music and laughter to others.

They do what they do because they enjoy what they do. Any money received goes to charity.

The Group is open to offers!

Contacts: are:-

Secretary/Treasurer: Alastair Forbes, tel. 822104

Chairman: Duncan Menzies, tel. 822705

Vancouver-bound

Caitlin Marno is going to Vancouver, Canada, to work as a volunteer for a charity called the Pais Project. Pais is the new testament Greek word for “child servant to the King”. The Pais Project is an inter-denominational Christian youth and schools work organisation, working in schools and churches to assist in the evangelisation and discipleship of children and young people. She will be based with a church and live with a host family. She will be trained as an intern in all aspects of youth and schools work and how to be a missionary. You can find out more about the Pais Project on www.paisproject.com.

GUILD

Our Guild session finished in April with an evening of Scottish Country Dancing. On 7th May we enjoyed the Kincardine & Deeside Guild Supper Rally at the Mercure Ardoe House Hotel.

Over 250 Guild members and friends enjoyed an evening of fellowship and friendship. The hotel served a lovely meal which was appreciated by all.

After the meal, our guest speaker for the evening was introduced. Miss Esme Duncan, who travelled from Wick, is currently the National Vice Convenor and after the General Assembly will be National Convenor. Esme gave a very interesting talk about part of her life through our theme, 'Think on These Things'. Esme is originally from the Deeside area and was very pleased to meet up



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with old friends.

Our next big guild event is the Annual Meeting in September which will be held at the Caird Hall, Dundee.

The Guild Soup and Sweet Lunch on 3rd May raised £201 for Guild projects.

Wishing everyone a relaxing summer break and looking forward to meeting everyone back again in October.

Margaret Thom, President.

BANCHORY EAST

NEW WEBSITE!

Summer

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2008

We are really excited to announce that we have just relaunched our website. It still has the same domain name - <http://www.banchoryeastchurch.org>. Jane Wills has been hard at work planning, developing and constructing the new site. She has encouraged people to forward to her the things she needed to complete the task. She has cajoled the minister (her mother!) into sitting down and putting fingers to keyboard. She has coaxed the magazine editor (and that takes some doing) into taking and forwarding suitable photos. She has asked the secretary to forward to her information about forthcoming events. She requested that the services be recorded. So, if you haven't done so for some time, when you next log onto the site you will notice a few changes.

We now have podcasts, which means if you can't manage it to the service one week or are away on holiday, you can download and listen to what you missed. A church



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Banchory Ternan East Church website. The header features a blue banner with the church's name and a navigation menu with links for Home, Worship, Noticeboard, Children, Youth, History, Location, Links, and Contact Us. The main content area includes a 'SERMON DOWNLOAD' section with a link to access online sermons, a 'Prayer Diary' section with a link to access the monthly prayer diary, and a central image of the church building with the text 'We extend to you a warm and personal welcome from Banchory Ternan East Church'. Below this is the church's mission statement: 'Our mission is: "To know Christ and to make Him known"'. The church's aim is stated as 'Our aim as God's people in this place, is to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, make his name and love known as widely as possible, and to seek to serve the community in which God has placed us.' On the right side, there is a section for 'A crèche is available in the Church Hall from 10.15 am. Sunday school also meets in the Hall at that time.' Below this, it states 'Church Service begins at 10.30 am. Tea, coffee and juice are served at the front of Church after the morning service.' Further down, it mentions 'Congregational Prayer Meeting - Every Sunday 10 am, St Ternan Room. All Welcome.' and 'Sunday Night Live is held in the East or West Church Hall at 6 pm'.

NEW WEBSITE!

CHURCH MAGAZINE

calendar is available, as are rotas, the Church magazine and the Prayer Diary. It's there for our own members to see and use, and for the wider world too. Visitors are able to see and hear what's going on, as well as finding out where we are.

Go in a check it out and perhaps send Jane a note of encouragement. Her e-mail is jane_wills@btconnect.com.

Incidentally, Jane and Tom are leaving for Australia on 10th July: we wish them well.

HOLIDAY CLUB

Every year we run a holiday club for 5-14 year olds in the Banchory community during the summer holidays. We use Scripture Union resources and have a large number of volunteer helpers. The week consists of Bible discovery, games, songs, drama, crafts and much more. It is a fabulous week of outreach. This year the dates are the 11th – 15th August from 9 am – 12 noon (with the children here between 10 am and 12 noon). If there is anyone who has musical talent (particularly piano playing) or enjoys working with young people, we would love to have them onboard the team. Please contact Rachel Read (Banchory West Church), tel: 820346.

BANCHORY EAST

CONGRATULATIONS

Summer

We congratulate the following:-

Baptism

Flynn John Rogie, 2 Cairds Close

28

Wedding

Alison McVey and Lawrence Robinson

2008

Renewal of Vows

Lynn and Ronald Morrison, 2 Milne View, Lumphanan

New Members

Caitlin Marno, 6 Heath Row, Banchory

Lisa Barclay, 95 Station Road, Banchory

PARISH GROUP - MAKING IT REAL

Over the next couple of months some public meetings will take place as part of a Community Consultation Exercise to ensure as far as possible that Banchory residents have a say in how their town will be developed. The purpose of this notice is to make you aware of these meetings so that you will be able to attend one or more to see what has been achieved since the last consultation (2002) and what is intended for the future.

Once the date and locations of meetings have been set, notices will appear in the local press (and this magazine). Do go and make your views known.

ALPHA

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Will you come to Alpha in the Autumn?
Will you bring your friends or neighbours to Alpha?

Alpha explains the basics of Christian belief and experience and provides an opportunity to question and discuss.



Alpha

Next Alpha Course: Wednesdays at 7.45 pm from September 10th to November 26th. Venue - Meet at the church. Contact Audrey Bowker on 824060.

Who should come? Everyone who has a mind open to enquire, question and discuss.

Christianity Explored is a study and discussion course based on Mark's Gospel. It provides a good next step from Alpha.

Christianity Explored is on the 2nd and 4th Mondays in the month at 7.30 pm from September 8th to November 24th. Venue - Mike and Margaret Scott's. Contact Margaret on 013398 82267.

Alpha Mix is a reminder of your Alpha experience and keeps you in touch with others who have done the course. It includes Worship, Learning and Friendship.

Alpha Mix is on the 4th Sunday in the month at 2 pm in the church. Contact Audrey Bowker on 824060.

BANCHORY EAST

MYSTERY AND REALITY

Summer

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2008

In the mentality of the modern West these two words are often considered to describe the difference between Religion and Science. We equate Science with reality and Religion with mystery. Why? Probably because from our school days we have learned that scientists can prove their discoveries and we can use the commercial products which result from them – the hairspray before we go out or the computer to check our emails. The mysterious isn't provable or useful daily in our lives, so why bother with it?

Another way of looking at it is that when you solve a maths equation, you have proved it, QED. So, if you can prove it is true, it must be real. And since you can't prove anything about religion, it can't be true and is, QED, not real. But, hang on a minute. Is what is true, real? For instance, the scientific description of a

kiss could be: 'the transfer of a quantity of saliva, and perhaps germs, from one mouth to another'. That may well be true in part. But we experience the reality of that human action rather differently. It is usually an expression of affection or passion but sometimes has little if any meaning. Should that kiss be followed by soundwaves from the mouth, even by a scientist, saying, "You are my heart's desire, darling. It's heaven when I'm with you," he is trying to express what is reality for him in that experience. You could say he has lost his marbles as a scientist. The question then follows for us all: how can one prove it? Is it even possible, QED? Perhaps when scientists are dealing with human beings the non provable is accepted as reality. And yet, in even the most brilliant of scientific discoveries - the structure of DNA – Crick remarked when he first postulated the possible

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structure, "It's so beautiful, it must be true," and then proceeded to demonstrate that it was. It was the sense of beauty, that mysterious quality, that led him on, not some maths. Reality is occasionally found through mystery.

In Physics, Mystery has become a normal part of the language. We're told that matter in its sub-atomic form is more space than matter, a number of particles held together by some unknown power station. Aberdonians in the Granite City are now walking on empty space, if not water. What is more, there is now matter that isn't matter, if you get what I mean. If it ain't so, then the maths doesn't add up. It has even got to the point where physicists are saying some things are beyond understanding! Mysterier and mysterier. The reality is that science has now recognised that mystery and reality are linked in a form of paradox. They are not opposites but complementary to one another.

If it's accepted by science that mystery is part of reality, even though it appears not to be provable (though in the maths of modern physics it is), then that which deals with the mysterious, such as art, music, psychology(?), religion, may also be means of exploring reality. But is religion also useful, as science is? Not in relation to things. The mysterious moves beyond things, as does religion. Ever since homo sapiens had an intuition of a mystery beyond himself, religion has explored that mystery beyond, as well as the mystery that inhabits the relationships between human beings. In both areas religion offers some helpful pointers to good relationships. The fact that the guidance is difficult to implement does not deny its usefulness but rather the problems inherent in good relationships.

Peter Bell (peterdavidbell@
btinternet.com)

CHURCH MAGAZINE

Minister

Rev Mary Haddow
East Manse, Station Road
Banchory AB31 5YP
Tel: 01330 822481

Session Clerks

Albert Davidson
Aurelia, 70 Grant Road
Banchory AB31 5UU
Tel: 01330 823759

Mike Jamieson
Lismore, Deevie Road
Banchory AB31 5UT
Tel: 01330 822712

Assistant Minister (Youth)

Rev Tony Stephen
Pitmachie Cott., 13 Arbeadie Terrace
Banchory AB31 5TN
Tel: 01330 824876

Children and Families' Worker

Laurie Wheeler
Howeburn Cottage, Auchattie
AB31 6PT
Tel: 0784 212 0057
laurie_wheeler@btinternet.com

Magazine Editor

Nigel Bowker
4 Riverside, Banchory AB31 6PS
Tel: 01338 824060

Clerk to the Board

John Wills
6 Heath Row, Banchory

Organist

Muriel Welch
East Fernbank, Woodside Road
Banchory AB31 5XL
Tel: 01330 822571

Church Officer

Douglas Ogg
18 Corrichie Place, Banchory
AB31 5WB
Tel: 01330 825426

Church Office

Tel: 01330 820380
e-mail: eastchurch.banchory@
tiscali.co.uk

web: banchoryeastchurch.org
Registered Charity (Number:
SC011251)

Banchory-Ternan East Church
of Scotland